Trump says making final decision on Iran deal

P12

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Pant steps down from LSG captaincy

Team finishes at the bottom of the table

P17

BANNERGHATTA

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A LIFE THAT FEELS
LIKE HOME AND
AN ESCAPE FROM IT ALL.

Artist's impression. Not an actual site image.

INTRODUCING

GODREJ
VANANTARA

GATEWAY TO YOUR GETAWAY

TURN THE PAGE TO DISCOVER MORE.

GODREJ
PROPERTIES

Godrej

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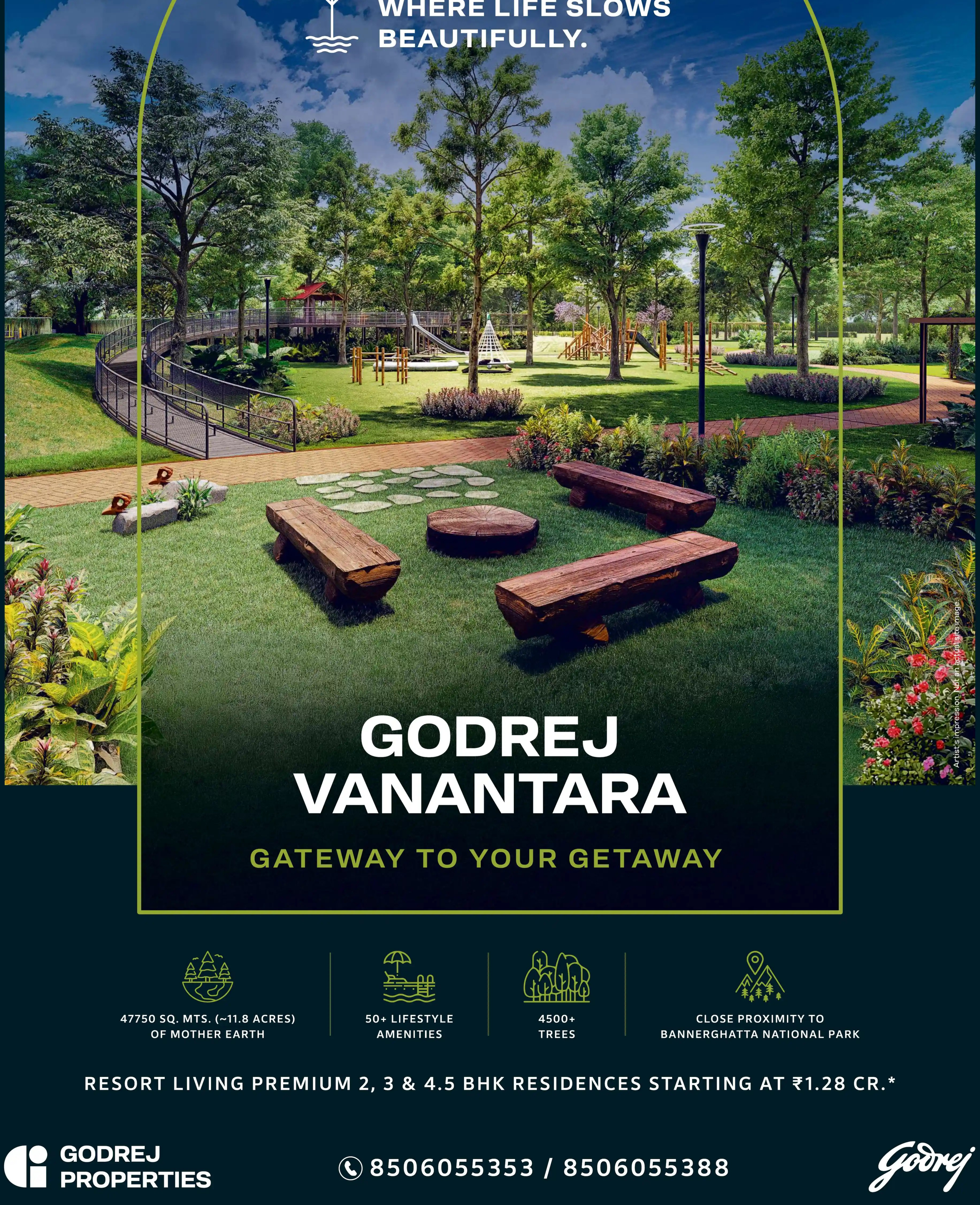
WELCOME TO YOUR FOREVER GETAWAY, WHERE LIFE SLOWS BEAUTIFULLY.



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GODREJ VANANTARA

GATEWAY TO YOUR GETAWAY

47750 SQ. MTS. (~11.8 ACRES) OF MOTHER EARTH

50+ LIFESTYLE AMENITIES

4500+ TREES

CLOSE PROXIMITY TO BANNERGHATTA NATIONAL PARK

RESORT LIVING PREMIUM 2, 3 & 4.5 BHK RESIDENCES STARTING AT ₹1.28 CR.*

GODREJ PROPERTIES

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Bengaluru Saturday, May 30, 2026 Pages 30 Vol 79 No 149 ₹8

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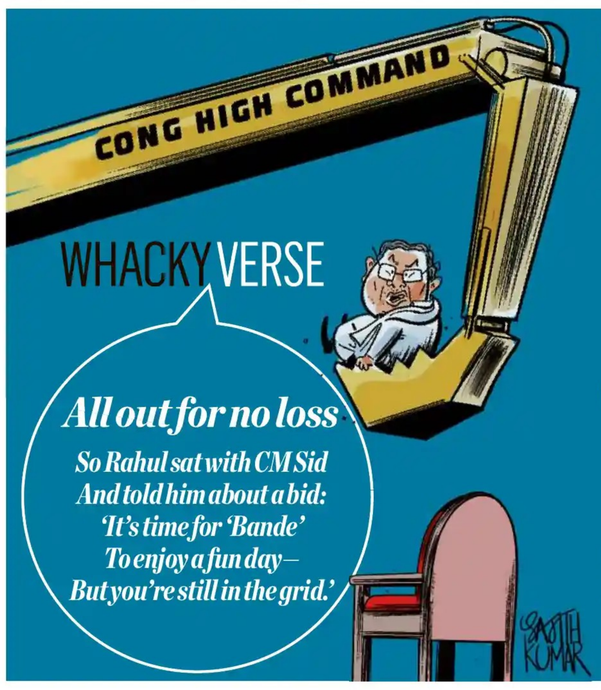

CONG HIGH COMMAND
WHACKY VERSE
All out for no loss
So Rahul sat with CM Sid
And told him about a bid:
'It's time for 'Bande'
To enjoy a fun day–
But you're still in the grid.'
SAKTHI KUMAR

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Gill, Sudharsan power GT into IPL final

Set up title clash with Royal Challengers on Sunday

P17

Inside the world of taxidermy

Those lifelike wildlife exhibits in museums are not stuffed toys. They are the preserved skins of real animals and birds, mounted through the art of taxidermy.

This week, we spotlight one of India's most sought-after taxidermists.

He says taxidermy plays a vital role in building awareness about wildlife and the urgent need to conserve it.

The SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 15

DKS to take oath on Sunday or Monday

CLP meeting today; race on for Cabinet berths

BENGALURU/NEW DELHI, DHNS

A meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) is scheduled on Saturday to elect Chief Minister-designate D K Shivakumar as its leader even as intense lobbying is underway by lawmakers who want to join the new Cabinet.

All lawmakers have been asked to attend the CLP meeting at 4 pm in Vidhana Soudha's conference hall, which will be overseen by Congress general secretaries K C Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala.

It is believed that caretaker Chief Minister Siddaramaiah himself will propose Shivakumar as the new CLP leader. Or, a one-line resolution authorising the Congress high command to choose the next CLP leader may be passed.

Shivakumar is likely to take oath as the chief minister on Sunday or Monday, senior Congress lawmaker H K Patil said.

Earlier in the day, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot accepted Siddaramaiah's resignation and asked him to continue in office until the new government takes charge.

During the day, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar held meetings with top Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Venugopal in New Delhi on the formation of the next Cabinet.

Siddaramaiah introduced his son Dr Yathindra, an MLC, to Rahul and pushed for his inclusion in the new government. Siddaramaiah also met Kharge. The Congress top brass is wary of antagonising Siddaramaiah, who wants his loyalists to find space in the new government.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with CM-designate D K Shivakumar in New Delhi on Friday.

NEW REGIME

- Siddaramaiah seeks son Dr Yathindra's inclusion in new govt
- 8-10 ministers likely to be sworn in in the first batch
- Over 20 ministers from previous Siddaramaiah Cabinet may be dropped
- No clarity yet on number of deputy CMs

The buzz in Delhi is that Rahul wants a full-fledged Cabinet to take oath along with Shivakumar. However, it is possible that 8-10 ministers will be sworn in in the first batch. It is also said that the Congress high command wants to have a bigger say in the way Cabinet berths are dished out.

▸ CLP meet, Page 4

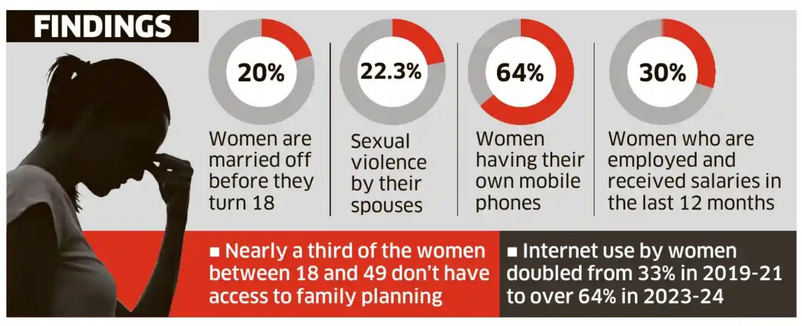
Over a fifth of Indian women suffered spousal violence in 2023-24: Report

Spousal sexual violence in Karnataka down to 14% from 44%

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Over a fifth of Indian women experience violence from their spouses despite their social progress, as witnessed from a substantially increased use of the Internet and cell phones as well as having a bank account and job, according to the sixth edition of the National Family Health Survey released on Friday.

The latest edition of India's largest public health survey also reveals that 20% women are married before they turn 18 and nearly a third of these women between 18 and 49 years don't have access to family planning. The NFHS-6 results are based on surveys carried out in 6.79 lakh households between 2023-24.


FINDINGS
20%
Women are married off before they turn 18
22.3%
Sexual violence by their spouses
64%
Women having their own mobile phones
30%
Women who are employed and received salaries in the last 12 months
■ Nearly a third of the women between 18 and 49 don't have access to family planning
■ Internet use by women doubled from 33% in 2019-21 to over 64% in 2023-24

Sexual violence against married women by their spouses is still widely prevalent, with 22.3% of them experiencing it across the country, though there is a dip compared to the previous survey. The NFHS-5 (2019-21) had pegged the percentage of such women at 29.2%.

▸ Spousal violence, Page 4

Land dispute: 6 hacked to death in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: Six people, including a five members of a family, were hacked to death with sharp weapons over a land dispute by a group of 15 to 20 people at Govindpur village in Chadchan taluk of Vijayapura district on Friday evening.

The police identified the victims as Chandu Nirale (56), Dundappa Nirale (65), Shivaputra Nirale (60), Rahul Nirale (35), Samarth Nirale (24) and Shabbir Nadaf (50). The assailants were armed with sharp weapons.

Details on Page 4

IMD further lowers 'below normal' monsoon forecast

NEW DELHI, DHNS

India Meteorological Department on Friday further lowered its "below normal" forecast for the south west monsoon predicting that the country will receive 90% of its average rainfall between June and September.

Below normal rainfall has also been predicted in three out of four regions – north-west, central and southern peninsula – as well as in the monsoon core zone that covers most of the rain-fed agriculture areas in central, eastern and western India. Only east and north-east India are expected to receive normal rainfall.

In its first long-range forecast issued in April, the IMD said 92% of average rainfall could be expected for the country.

The alarming news of a weak monsoon – the first time in 11 years – was triggered by the threat of an El Nino, an unusual warming of the Pacific Ocean that plays havoc with weather around the world.

▸ Monsoon, Page 4

Rain brings city to a standstill, Page 2

SC sets 3-month deadline for HCs to pronounce judgment

NEW DELHI, DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday laid down a comprehensive set of binding directions for all High Courts to curb delays in pronouncing judgments in matters where hearings have been reserved.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed that High Courts should endeavour to deliver reasoned judgments within three months from the date of reserving them.

The court emphasised greater urgency in cases involving personal liberty, directing that bail applications be heard and orders preferably pronounced and uploaded on the same day.

Details on Page 10

Capital punishment only if life term ruled out: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, DELHI: The Supreme Court has ruled that the death penalty can be imposed only when the alternative of life imprisonment is "unquestionably foreclosed", stressing the need for a careful balancing of aggravating and mitigating factors with equal focus on the crime and the criminal's background and reformative potential.

The court made the observation while commuting the death sentence of a man convicted of double murder.

It noted that in cases falling short of the "rarest of rare" category, where ordinary life imprisonment subject to remission may appear inadequate, the courts can impose a fixed-term life sentence without remission.

Details on Page 10

SENSODYNE PRONAMEL

"ACIDS IN EVERYDAY FOODS AND DRINKS DAMAGE YOUR TOOTH ENAMEL"

CITRUS FRUITS

TEA/ COFFEE

COLA

Good oral health starts with a strong enamel, the outer protective layer of our teeth. But acids in food and drinks weaken it every day. Once your enamel is gone, you can get dental problems like Sensitivity, Yellowing and Cavities.

SENSITIVITY

YELLOWING

CAVITIES

Backed by over 20 years of research, Sensodyne Pronamel's advanced scientific formula helps absorb minerals deep into the enamel, to give you stronger enamel protection.

STRONGER ENAMEL PROTECTION*

Creative visualisation. *Fluoride strengthens enamel by promoting remineralisation and inhibiting demineralisation. Featherstone, J D. (1999) In an in vitro lab test vs mouth's natural defense (Data on file). PMID: 10086924. © 2025 Haleon Group of Companies. Trademarks are owned by or licensed to the Haleon Group of Companies. All rights reserved. Zero, Domenick T, and Adrian Lussi (2005), PMID: 16167607. Lussi, A, and T Jaeggi (2008), PMID: 18228059. Tahmassebi, J F et al (2014), PMID: 24072423. PM-IN-PRO-25-00015

K-100 DRAINS: AN UNFINISHED DREAM

StormWater joins the waterway near Nala Road.

Some unsupervised corners become a spot for smoking, drinking and urinating.

People walk over to the other side using the bridge in many areas

Garbage collected on the bridge near Adugodi Road.

Staff clean the area, picking up garbage and debris from the walkway near Wilson Garden.

When reality trumps a model idea

The project, holding much promise, is yet to be completed, but it is already suffering from multiple issues

Project Name	K-100 Citizens Waterway
Estimated Cost	₹175–179 cr
Lead Agency	BBMP / Greater Bengaluru Authority
Supporting Agency	BWSSB
Coverage	23 wards

K-100 : Cost breakup

Civil works & retaining walls	52 cr
Walkways & public realm	34 cr
Sewage diversion pipelines	28 cr
Landscaping & lighting	18 cr
Bridges & crossings	16 cr
STP & water treatment	12 cr
Desilting & garbage removal	9 cr

Locals use the bridge to cross over at Nala Road near K S Garden. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Labourers working on K-100 waterway project near Bannerghatta Main Road in June 2023.

Completed waterway project as seen on May 27, 2026.

PUSHKAR V
BENGALURU, DHNS

What was once seen as a fresh urban idea for Bengaluru is now neglected and poorly maintained. The K-100 waterway project, launched with much hope by former chief minister Siddaramaiah, was meant to turn the stormwater stretch between Majestic and Bellandur lake into an open, accessible public space where people could walk, sit, and spend time by the water. Today, the picture is far from that promise.

The K-100, officially known as the K-100 Citizens Waterway Project, is part of the Koramangala Valley stormwater drain network.

A reality check by *DH* showed that in many areas, local residents don't use the space much, except to cross from one side to the other via the bridges.

A few stretches are being kept clean through regular upkeep, but that is not enough to hide the larger problems. Sewage and contaminated water remain the biggest issues. The smell is hard to ignore. Several residents said the stench is enough to drive people away from the area, especially during the rains.

There is also the problem of garbage. People continue throwing waste into the waterway, adding to the mess. In some unsupervised corners, the space has also become a spot for smoking, drinking and urinating. Rain has wreaked havoc in several sections by carrying debris along the channel, causing it to overflow onto bridges and uproot carefully planted shrubs.

A proposed office space along the K-100 corridor now lies abandoned, with empty interiors and little activity around it.

Still, the project has its strengths. The design is good with ramps, signage, and access points that show careful planning. In fact, it is the kind of public space many developed cities have long used well. But here, the space is left to deteriorate due to the lack of political will to fix the problems that plague it.

Shop owners in some areas near the project use parts of the stretch to store their materials. Some residents say the project has consumed so much money and time, and it now demands more.

The proposed office/ticket counter near the Shantinagar bus stand.

'Maintenance, a collective issue'

MOD Foundation has been involved since the beginning of the K-100 project, first as a DPR consultant and later as a project management consultant.

Amritha Ganapathy, Senior Urban Designer at MOD Foundation, says that 90% of the K-100 project has been completed, but it has not been handed over to the Greater Bengaluru Authority or any corporation. There is no estimated timeline to finish it fully.

Still, why the stench? "It is not meant for use during the rainy season because, unless the full catchment of 32 sq km is maintained equally, all road waste will wash into the drain. It can only be maintained periodically. The K-100 stretch is supposed to be usable only during dry seasons," she replies.

"We have to look at the sewage, solid waste and stormwater together in this project. As part of this project, one 5-MLD sewage treatment plant was completed and commissioned in Kalasipalya," Amritha explains.

Sewage connections were provided, an STP was installed, private STPs were made operational, and ETPs were installed. "We had about 130 million litres of sewage per day, which is reduced to 10 MLD," shares Amritha.

What's pending? "There is still an issue near Shantinagar, where rectification work is currently underway on the BWSSB line. So, there is currently a sewage inflow, but it will be fixed in a month or so," she adds.

"Most of the project is about maintenance, from the contractors and the officials. Governance forms a big part of maintenance, without which the project can never achieve what it intends to," she says.

For now, K-100 stands as a reminder that building a project is only the first step. Keeping it alive, clean and open to people is the harder task. Without that, it has come down to people using the bridges and walking away from everything else.

Feedback:
pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

METRO

BWCC draws up five-point plan to save Sankey Tank

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) has drawn up a five-point action plan to address depleting water levels at Sankey Tank.

After discussions with residents and experts, the BWCC has decided to rope in a wetland expert from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to oversee work at the tank.

"We have come up with five actionable points that will be implemented over the next few months. As a first step, soon we will coordinate with IISc and get a wetland expert to assess and work along with us in the development of Sankey Tank," BWCC Commissioner Rajendra KV told *DH*.

The corporation will also assess the gabion structure being constructed to determine whether it has affected water levels.

"An audit will be conducted and we will see if we have to change the plan or design," Rajendra said.

Experts and citizens who met the commissioner said a surface water fountain would help improve aeration, and the corporation is planning to install three such fountains.

"If the water is churned at the surface level, it will help improve aeration and hence, surface water fountains are a good option for Sankey. I also suggested that the inlet valves to the tank should be checked. Over the years, concretisation of surrounding walls has made it difficult for subsurface water to enter, turning Sankey into a cement bowl. This has to be addressed," said Professor TV Ramachandra.

The corporation will trace and clean the inlet valves and check for silt accumulation. Natural drains will also be desilted before the monsoon.

Citizens and walkers had expressed concern over significant dropping of water levels this summer, but the corporation could not ascertain the extent of depletion as levels had not been marked.

DH had reported concerns over the depletion of water levels at Sankey Tank on May 7.

Action to be taken

- Inlet valves to be cleaned and desilted
- Gabion structure to be assessed for impact on water levels
- Surface fountains to be installed to improve aeration
- Sewage entry to be checked; water levels to be marked regularly

Vrishabhavathi overflows, Silk Board Junction flooded; heavy rain brings city to a standstill

Friday's rains expose drainage gaps once again

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rain on Friday triggered waterlogging, overflowing of stormwater drains, and traffic snarls across several parts of Bengaluru.

The overflowing Vrishabhavathi Valley caused a flood-like situation at Nayandahalli Junction. The Central Silk Board Junction was flooded after the evening downpour, with even the newly constructed metro station area completely marooned.

Traffic crawled on Ambedkar Veedhi near Vidhana Soudha, Indiranagar, Vasanthnagar, Ballari Road, KR Market, Corporation Circle, Sampangi Ramnagar and surrounding streets, where knee-deep water was reported.

Slow-moving and standstill traffic was seen on Windsor Manor Bridge towards Palace Cross, Mysuru Road towards Veterinary Junction, Brigade Road towards Opera Junction, and Majestic.

Waterlogging was reported at Siddalingaiah Junction, Sarakki, Pattandur Agrahara towards ECC Road, Mission Road, Cubbon Road, Whitefield Main Road and the Outer Ring Road.

Manholes overflowed near the ISKCON Temple.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao inspected the waterlogging at KR Circle underpass and directed officials to take immediate measures to address flooding, ensure traffic movement and deploy emergency response teams at vulnerable locations.

A tree was uprooted on 4th Cross Road, Uttaradi Mutt Road, in Basavanagudi on Friday.

Rainwater surrounds the Gandhi statue as people make their way through flooded roads on Friday. DH PHOTO/MANJUNATH MS

Rain to continue till Tuesday

Light to moderate rain with thundershowers and gusty winds is forecast for Bengaluru city and Bengaluru Rural district till Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

Winds of 30 to 40 kmph are likely, with maximum and minimum temperatures expected to hover between 32 and 22 degrees Celsius.

Dry conditions may return between June 3 and 5.

"Current predictions show that rainfall will decrease after three to four days. Because it is fully northerly wind, that is why the possibility is less. But it is difficult to predict up to five days as the model is rapidly changing. It is not consistent," said Dr N Puviarasan, Scientist 'F' and Head, Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru.

Auto driver killed after wall collapses in Vijayanagar

BENGALURU, DHNS: An auto driver died on Friday evening after a wall collapsed in the Vijayanagar area during heavy rain and gusty winds.

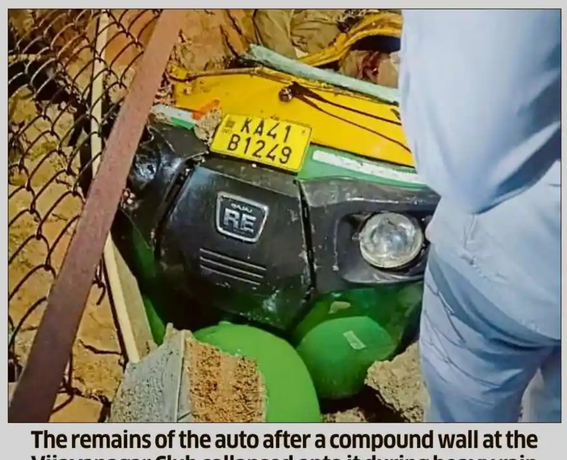
The victim, identified as 40-year-old Shivaboraiah, was reportedly sitting inside his autorickshaw when a wall belonging to the Vijayanagar Club collapsed onto the vehicle.

According to police officials, the wall, measuring around 15 to 20 feet in height, was attached to the club's swimming pool.

The incident occurred around 7.30 pm as rain and strong winds intensified across the city.

The autorickshaw was completely crushed in the incident. Officials said the extent of other property damage is yet to be assessed.

Last month, a wall at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar collapsed following intense rain, killing seven people and injuring nine others.



The remains of the auto after a compound wall at the Vijayanagar Club collapsed onto it during heavy rain and strong winds on Friday evening.

Doctors push for pneumococcal jab as monsoon nears

High-risk adults, elderly & those with chronic illnesses urged to get vaccinated

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

With pre-monsoon showers setting in across Bengaluru and respiratory concerns rising, doctors are stressing the importance of pneumococcal vaccination among high-risk groups.

They warn that respiratory infections during the rainy season can pose serious complications for older adults, diabetics, and those with compromised immunity.

Experts say adult vaccination remains under-recognised despite its role in preventing severe bacterial infections, including pneumonia and bacterial meningitis.

"Adult vaccination has always been a glaringly under-discussed area in India's public health system. While our paediatric immunisation programmes are robust and appreciated across the globe, the focus sharply drops off for adults, leaving a significant gap in our national health strategy," said Dr Sandeep S Reddy, Consultant, Infectious Diseases and Travel Medicine.

Pneumonia and severe respiratory infections place a heavy burden on healthcare facilities during the rainy season, with hospitals routinely seeing a surge in admissions that strains emergency departments and intensive care units, he added.

The pneumococcal vaccine reduces severe, life-threatening pneumococcal pneumonia by roughly 50% to 65%, depending on the patient's age and immunity.

"In India, pneumococcal pneumonia causes an estimated four to five million cases and hospitalises up to 70% of elderly patients who develop it. Immunisation becomes very important to protect this 60% to 70% of older patients," said Dr Divya Shetty, Infectious Disease Specialist.

Two pneumococcal vaccines with two-dose schedules, PCV13 and PPSV23, were available earlier in India. PCV20 has been introduced recently and is considered a better option because of its broader strain coverage and single-dose schedule.

"Along with senior citizens, younger adults with certain medical conditions should also strongly consider taking it. People with chronic illnesses and smokers have a greater risk of lung infections. While older adults are naturally more vulnerable because of weakened immunity, younger adults with comorbidities can also face serious complications if not protected through vaccination," said Dr Swati Rajagopal, Senior Consultant, Infectious Disease and Travel Medicine.

Unusual summer spike

Respiratory illnesses in the city usually follow a pattern of rising during winter, declining afterward and disappearing in summer.

However, doctors say the pattern has not held up this year.

"This year has been unusual. Typically, respiratory infections decline until the monsoon season begins. But this year, that pattern did not hold. During peak summer, we witnessed upper respiratory infections, some progressing into lower respiratory tract infections requiring hospitalisation," said Dr Aishwarya R, Consultant, Infectious Diseases.

Bescom vigilance official held for taking Rs15-lakh bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Lokayukta police on Friday arrested a Bescom vigilance official for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 15 lakh.

The arrested official is 57-year-old BS Basavarajaiah, Assistant Executive Engineer, Bescom Vigilance, Rajajinagar station.

Basavarajaiah had demanded Rs 18 lakh from a Doddaballapura resident to reduce an electricity fine in a Bescom vigilance case registered at the Rajajinagar station.

Lokayukta police laid a trap and caught him red-handed. He has been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Investigation is underway.

House theft: 5 held, including two juveniles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jayanagar police have arrested three people and detained two juveniles in connection with a house break-in case, officials said on Friday.

Police recovered eight watches of various brands and other valuables worth Rs 6 lakh from the suspects.

A complaint was filed on May 19 that a house in Jayanagar 4th T Block was broken into and Rs 20,000 in cash, eight watches, a mobile phone, silver articles, a gold coin and other items kept in a cupboard were looted.

Police arrested the suspects and during inquiry, learnt that the theft was committed along with two juveniles in conflict with law.

During interrogation, the suspects said the watches and other stolen goods had been kept at the residence of one of their accomplices.

Mini bus rams two-wheelers, two dead near Banashankari

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two people died near Banashankari on Thursday evening after a mini bus rammed into five two-wheelers and pedestrians.

The deceased are 63-year-old Uday Kumar and 52-year-old Selva Kumar, both residents of Banashankari, police said.

Around 8.20 pm, the speeding mini bus rammed into the two-wheelers and pedestrians. Several people were injured and moved to hospital. An investigation is underway.

GBA holds review meeting to prepare for voter list revision

Directs officials to ensure comprehensive readiness

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Friday held a key meeting with additional district electoral officers as part of preparations for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls within the city limits.

Chairing the review meeting, GBA Chief Commissioner and District Electoral Officer M Maheshwar Rao directed officials to make comprehensive preparations for the voter list revision exercise across the city.

He instructed authorities to immediately fill vacancies among Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and issue notices to those who have failed to report for duty. He also warned that legal action should be initiated against BLOs who fail to respond to the notices.

The chief commissioner directed all corporations to hold daily progress review meetings on the revision process and ensure there are no lapses in the implementation of the SIR exercise.

He further asked all BLOs to achieve 100% progress in voter pre-mapping activities by June 16.

Officials were also instructed to launch awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the voter list revision process, which is scheduled to formally begin on June 20.

According to the SIR schedule, training and printing of materials will be carried out between June 30 and July 29. Door-to-door visits by BLOs to voters' residences will begin on July 29, while the SIR process at polling stations will commence on August 5.

The draft electoral roll will be published between August 5 and September 4, while the period for filing claims and objections will remain open from August 5 to October 3. Notices and disposal of claims and objections are scheduled for October 7.

GBA Special Commissioner (Elections) Sushma Godbole, and Additional District Election Officers Pommala Sunil Kumar, KN Ramesh and G Jagadeesh were present at the meeting.

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

June 16: Deadline for 100% voter pre-mapping by BLOs

June 20: Formal commencement of Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

June 30–July 29: Training and printing of materials

July 29: Door-to-door visits by BLOs begin

August 5: SIR process at polling stations begins

August 5–September 4: Publication of draft electoral roll

August 5–October 3: Filing of claims and objections

October 7: Disposal of claims and objections

Minor on bike stabbed by two assailants

BENGALURU, DHNS: RR Nagar police have registered a case after two assailants stabbed a 17-year-old boy near Pattanagere late Wednesday night, officials said on Friday.

The boy, a PU dropout, was riding his two-wheeler when the two suspects on a motorcycle pulled up alongside him, stabbed him in the back, and fled. The juvenile was admitted to hospital and is out of danger, police said.

"Preliminary inquiry has revealed that the suspects were known to the victim. They had previously engaged in a quarrel, and the victim's relative had intervened to pacify them. They will be arrested shortly," a police officer told *DH*.

Driver assault case: One arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: Wilson Garden police have arrested a suspect in connection with the assault of a car driver near Shantinagar on May 22, officials said on Friday.

"There are other suspects involved in the case. Since they are yet to be arrested, we are not revealing details of the arrested suspect," a police officer told *DH*.

A gang had waylaid the victim, who was driving a car attached to a cab service and was accompanied by a woman in the passenger seat.

CCTV footage of the incident went viral on social media, showing the victim being dragged out of the car and beaten. Police registered a case and launched a probe.

Police suspect the motive may have been related to the woman, but are yet to conclude on the actual cause as investigations are underway.

Cricket fans gather for a public screening of an IPL final.
DH FILE PHOTO

Police draw firm line on IPL victory celebrations tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS

With Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) qualifying for the IPL 2026 final, the Bengaluru City Police have issued a public advisory urging strict adherence to safety guidelines, particularly after the match concludes on Sunday.

"After the final match result is announced, the public should not engage in any kind of celebrations in public places. LED walls facing roads shall not be put up without prior permission from the authorities concerned and matches shall not be screened on existing LED walls. Screens must not be installed outside malls, pubs, or other places in a manner visible to the public for viewing the final match," the city police said.

Police prohibited bursting crackers and use of dangerous materials, and urged the public to maintain peace and discipline in crowded areas.

City police also urged the public to follow traffic police instructions strictly. Bike rallies, over-speeding, stunts, misuse of horns, and road blockages are prohibited.

Authorities advised fans not to consume alcohol in public places, create disturbances, engage in fights, or behave indecently.

"Provocative posts, hateful messages, or rumours should not be shared on social media. Under the pretext of the match result, fans of other teams should not be provoked, insulted, or engaged in behaviour that may lead to fights. Everyone must remember that maintaining law and order, public peace, and safety is the responsibility of every citizen," the police said.

E-khata services: GBA to hold open house at 50 locations

On-the-spot property record services available

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will conduct the 'My e-Khata, My Hakku' campaign at 50 locations across the city on Saturday as part of the state government's sixth guarantee scheme, "Bhu Guarantee".

According to a press release, the campaign, launched on May 16, has received an encouraging response from citizens over the past two weeks.

The initiative aims to facilitate e-khata services, including issuance of new e-khatas, conversion of B-khata properties to A-khata, correction of errors in records, and disposal of long-pending applications.

Officials said citizen help desks, separate service counters, computers, printers, scanners and trained staff will be available at all centres to provide on-the-spot assistance and grievance redressal.

The government has also announced a special 100-day window, from May 15 to August 23, during which the fee for B-khata to A-khata conversion has been reduced from 5% to 2% of the property's guidance value.

Nearly seven lakh property owners are expected to benefit from the concession.

The campaign will be held every Saturday for 100 days across Bengaluru to improve citizen services, transparency and efficiency in property records management.

Citizens can visit their nearest centres with relevant property documents and identity proof to avail themselves of the services.

Water supply disruption in Mysuru Rd areas today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Water supply will be disrupted in areas around Mysuru Road on Saturday, as the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) undertakes emergency repair work on pipelines under Cauvery Stage II.

According to a BWSSB statement, a leak was detected in a major pipeline carrying 14 MLD of water to Mysuru Road via Southend Circle. Damage to the pipeline has caused water to gush out, prompting immediate repair work to prevent wastage of drinking water.

The repair work is scheduled to begin at 9 am on Saturday.

Areas likely to be affected include Kasturba Nagar, Bapujinagar, Shamanna Garden, Manjunath Nagar, Hosaguddadahalli, Haleguddadahalli and Arafat Nagar.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

Wake up with richer, tastier Amulya.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

National Art Conference: Inauguration by SC Patil; Art exhibition inauguration by Shanti Vasu; Organised by Meghamaitri Kannada Sahitya Sangha; Akkamahadevi Auditorium, Kannada Sahitya Parishat; 9.30 am.

Felicitation to Ananya for World Record Atlantic Crossing: Felicitation for completing a record-setting Atlantic Ocean crossing in 52 days; UT Khader, PGR Sindhia to attend; Organised by Bharat Scouts and Guides Karnataka; Kondajji Basappa Hall, Palace Road; 10.30 am.

Monthly Reading: Discussion on the Kannada translation of Aditya Mukherjee's Nehru's India by BR Manjunath and HG Jayalakshmi; Address by N Jagadish Koppa; Organised by Hosathu; Hosathu Angala, Embassy Centre, Crescent Road; 5 pm.

Akashvani @ 90–Swara Smruti: Saraswata Sanchaya by Basavaraj Sadar, MS Vidya, Ayesha Khanum to attend; Ramana Balachandran (veena); A Arjun Kumar (mridanga) and G Guruprasanna (kanjira); Organised by Prasar Bharati; Bengaluru Gayana Samaja, KR Road; 6 pm.

CULTURAL

Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha: Vaishnavi Jayashankar; Vandya Srinath, Rukmini Vijayakumar, Padma Rahulan to attend; ADA Rangamandira, JC Road; 4.30 pm.

'Pukkate Salahe' Comedy Play: Written by H Dundiraj; Directed by Ashok B; Presented by Vishwapatha Kala Sangama; Cultural Complex, Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain and thundershowers

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	32.1C
Minimum	22.6°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	60%
Sunset (May 30)	6:42 pm
Sunrise (May 31)	6:52 am
Moonrise	5:07 pm
Moonset	4:02 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm)
Source: IMD

ORGANISED BY
HANDS ON Dastkar
Tickets also available at
SKILLBOX
Bengaluru
DASTKAR BAZAAR
25 YEARS OF CRAFTS, CULTURE & YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!
29 MAY to 4 JUNE 2026
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JAYAMAHAL PALACE HOTEL
#1, Behind Cantonment Railway Station,
Bengaluru
www.dastkar.org 9742801793 | 8860174659

THE KARNATAKA STATE CRICKET ASSOCIATION (KSCA)
M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Cubbon Road, Bengaluru – 560 001

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The KSCA, invites sealed tenders at the KSCA from GST Compliant agencies for the following works towards providing **(a) Catering Services (b) House Keeping Services (c) Security Services at its premises at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, 3 Ovals Alur (opp. Golden Palms Resort) and Hoddur (Madikeri).**

1.	Name of work a)	Providing **Catering Services**(Veg, Non-Veg, Juice & Chats) at KSCA, Chinnaswamy Stadium. EMD – 5% of the quoted amount should be enclosed with the submission. Cost of tender form – Rs.5,000/- plus GST (Non Refundable)
	b)	Providing **House Keeping Services** at KSCA, Chinnaswamy Stadium and 3 Ovals, Alur EMD – 5% of the quoted amount should be enclosed with the submission. Cost of tender form – Rs.5,000/- plus GST (Non Refundable)
	c)	Providing Security Services at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore, 3 Ovals Alur and Hoddur (Madikeri). EMD – 5% of the quoted amount should be enclosed with the submission. Cost of tender form Rs.5,000/- plus GST (Non Refundable).
2.	Issue of tender form	1st June 2026 to 10th June 2026
3.	Site Visit	11th June 2026 to 13th June 2026 **Catering** 11 AM to 1 PM **Housekeeping**–7am to 9pm or 4:30 pm to 6 pm. **Security Services** – 10 AM to 6 PM.
4.	Last date of submission of filled tender forms (Two-cover bid system i.e. Technical & Commercial **Separately**)	15th June 2026 before 5.00p.m
5.	Time Period	1st July 2026 to 31st March 2029

Tender documents may be obtained from the KSCA Sports Centre, Chinnaswamy Stadium, Gate No. E-10, Queens Road, Bengaluru 560 001 by submitting a requisition in the Company's letter head addressed to Hon. Secretary, KSCA between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM on any working day. For any clarification please contact **Col. Vishwas, GM, KSCA Sports Centre, Mobile No. 91494 68584.**

Hon.Secretary, KSCA

Traffic restrictions

BENGALURU, DHNS: The movement of heavy goods vehicles between HAL and Varthur-Whitefield via Varthur Main Road and Marathahalli Bridge will be prohibited from 11 pm on Saturday till 6 am on Sunday due to metro works, a press release said.

AAP members stage a protest against fuel price hike in Bengaluru on Friday.

AAP protests fuel price hike, targets Modi-led Centre

BENGALURU, DHNS: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) held a demonstration at Freedom Park on Thursday to protest the increase in petrol and diesel prices, accusing the BJP-led Union government of burdening ordinary citizens amidst rising inflation.

Addressing reporters, Karnataka AAP working president Sitaram Gundappa alleged that repeated hikes in fuel prices would increase transportation costs and trigger a rise in the prices of essential commodities. He said that the rise in fuel prices would affect farmers, who depend on diesel for agricultural activities, as well as middle-class families, labourers, small traders and taxi drivers.

Gundappa claimed that despite a decline in international crude oil prices before the Gulf conflict, fuel prices in India had not been reduced.

He accused the Centre of collecting massive revenues through excise duties and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi disclose the details of such collections to the public.

Charge sheet for non-existent offence: High court orders probe against cop

'Liberty of a person can't be sacrificed at altar of negligence'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the competent authority to initiate a departmental enquiry against the officer-in-charge of the Banaswadi police station in Bengaluru for filing the charge sheet for the offence of abetment to suicide in a case of attempted suicide.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed this order while directing the immediate release of the accused from prison.

"The inquiry, now directed, shall not be a ritualistic exercise, but a meaningful examination into the disturbing casualness with which liberty was imperilled. A report of such action taken shall be placed before this Court, within three months," Justice Nagaprasanna said in his order.

The petitioner Nixon Nanda, a resident of RS Palya in Bengaluru, married Priya in 2018. On October 21, 2025, at about 9 pm, pursuant to a squabble, Priya attempted suicide by jumping from the second floor of their house and sustained injuries. After being treated for injuries, Priya filed a complaint with the Banaswadi police.

The police registered an FIR for offences under BNS sections 108, 62, 85 and 352, the primary being the offence punishable under section 108 for abetment to suicide. The police arrested Nixon. He was remanded in judicial custody later.

The police further filed the charge sheet for all the offences alleged, including abetment to suicide. In the meantime, the couple reconciled and wished to settle the dispute and live together. Nixon moved the high court after his bail application was rejected by the trial court.

After perusing the complaint and the chargesheet, Justice Nagaprasanna noted that it clearly depicted an act of recklessness on the part of the police.

The court said that though the wife did attempt to commit suicide, there is no death in the case at hand for the police to invoke section 108, which punishes whoever abets the commission of suicide.

"Yet, in an astonishing display of recklessness or prosecutorial haste, the crime is registered for abetment to suicide, and a charge sheet is also filed against the petitioner for the offence of abetment of suicide, an offence whose very foundation is actual commission of suicide," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further said, "The criminal justice system cannot be permitted to be reduced to a frolicsome act of the investigating officer, where accusations are drafted upon whim and fancy. The liberty of a person cannot be sacrificed at the altar of negligence. The present case is not merely an error of judgment; it is a glaring manifestation of non-application of mind that has resulted in the incarceration of a citizen for half a year, for a legally non-existent offence. It is therefore, imperative that accountability follow such abuse of authority."

The members of the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party unveil a mock 'VIP IPL Ticket' urging the state government to end Bengaluru's 'toxic VIP culture,' in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/ PRASHANTH H G

BNP urges govt to end 'toxic VIP culture'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) on Friday unveiled a mock 'VIP IPL Ticket' to urge the state government to end Bengaluru's "toxic VIP culture"

Using the recent controversy about the MLAs demanding mandatory Indian Premier League tickets as a prime example, the party highlighted how the VIP entitlement has damaged Bengaluru's reputation, inconvenienced ordinary citizens and now cost the city the opportunity to host IPL final.

The protest was organised by BNP's youth wing at Freedom Park.

"Bengaluru's citizens are not second-class guests in their own city. The same MLAs who delay local elections, spend city budgets without transparency and ignore damaged roads, garbage, flooding and everyday civic issues, are demanding VIP tickets to cricket matches. This is not just about IPL passes. This is about a political culture where elected representatives behave like rulers while citizens are treated like an inconvenience," Rishvanjas Raghavan, president of BNP Nava Yuva, said.

He recalled that VIP greed turned a public celebration into a tragedy last year.

"This year, it has cost Bengaluru the chance to host a home final."

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No. : SDSTE-REP-IPS-36STN-26-27 Date 27.05.2026. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, New DRM Building, near Railway Museum, Howrah-711101 invites Open e-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-REP-IPS-36STN-26-27 for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work:** Replacement of old & Overaged IPS at 36 Location over Howrah. **Bidding System:** Single Packet. **Advertised Value:** ₹ 4,52,73,240/-. **Earnest Money/Bid Security:** ₹ 9,05,500/-. **Tender Document Cost:** ₹ 0.00. **Period of Completion:** 12 months. **Validity of Offer:** 60 Days. **Bidding Start Date:** 05.06.2026. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 19.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. The details are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in**

HWH-110/2026-27

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND C.J.M. AT HOSAPETE

O.S.No. 11/2025

Between : Smt. B.Sujana ...Plaintiff

And : Sri.B.Madhava Murthy And 5 others. ...Defendants

Summons to the Defendant No.1 Sri.B.Madhava Murthy Under Order 5 Rule 20 of C.P.C.

To.1) Address:Sri.B.Madhava Murthy S/o late.B. Shyamachar, Aged about 58 years, Private Employment and Business, Residing at CASA SERENA Apartment, Vaishnavi Gardenia, PRATHAMA CASA SERANA, Internal Road, Prashant Nagar, T-Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560 057 **2) Another Address : Sri.B. Madhava Murthy** S/o late. B.Shyamachar. Aged about 58 years, Private Employment & Business, Residing at Heritage South Apartment, 8th Main Road, Kadarenahalli, Padmanabha Nagara, Bengaluru -560 070

Whereas Smt. B.Sujana W/o Sri.N.S.Rakshith D/o B.Madhava Murthy, aged about 28 years, has instituted the above suit against you before this Hon'ble Court for partition of suit schedule property. Therefore, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions on the **15.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.** in the fore noon to answer the claim and further you are hereby directed to file on that day a written. statement of your defense and to produce on the said day all documents in your possession as power upon which you base your defense or claim or set off or counter claim, and where you rely on any other documents whether in your possession or power or not as evidence in support of your defense or claim for set or counter claim, you shall enter such documents in a list to be annexed to the written statement.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 29th Day of April 2026.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Sr. Sheristedar
Court of the Pri.Sr.Civil Judge & C.J.M.
Vijayanagara Dist, Hosapete

Advocate for Plaintiff H.K. Sathyanarayana Rao
Hosapete - 583 201

RAIL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways Government of India)
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER
(RFP Notice No. RLDA/2026/RFP/CRD/44 of 2026 dt. 20.05.2026)

"Refurbishment of identified Existing Railway Quarters at Yeshwantpur Colony to Facilitate Phase-wise Implementation of the Proposed Colony Redevelopment Project."

Name of Site	Bid Security	Bid Document Fee	Estimated Cost
"Refurbishment of identified Existing Railway Quarters at Yeshwantpur Colony to Facilitate Phase-wise Implementation of the Proposed Colony Redevelopment Project."	Rs.3,06,000/-	Rs. 5,900/- (i/c GST@18%) (Non-refundable)	Rs. 1.53 Cr.

Last date of Downloading of e-bid Document for participation/submission Online: 18.06.2026 upto 23:59 Hrs.
(Any details to be obtained from Joint General Manager/Projects/Bangalore)
Last date submission of e-bids online: 19.06.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.

For further details of the project, please visit our website https://.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement Portal https://www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA under the heading tender/'e-tender'.

For any clarifications, may please contact:-

Chief Project Manager/Bangalore	JGM/Projects/Bangalore	For e-bid queries:
pervesh02k@gmail.com	jgmpsbc@rlda.railnet.gov.in	Mr. Mayank Singh (CEL)
Mob: 9741604203	Mob: 9959187887	mayank.s@etenderwizard.com Mob: 8800115628

Note:- Any Corrigendum or Addendum will be published only on above mentioned websites. JGM/Expert/Tender, (M) 9711305031

TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE

(AN AUTONOMOUS BODY UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, GOVT. OF INDIA)
Advt.No. TMC/AD-55/2026 **22.05.2026**

Invites applications for the post of

DIRECTOR

(for HBCH/ MPMMCC, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh)
Last date for online application is **19.06.2026** upto 5.30 p.m. (Indian Standard Time)
For details visit our website: http://tmc.gov.in

CBC 48149/11/0003/2627

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com

Corrigendum – 1

Name of Work: Development of Roundabout of Hinoo Chowk Softscaped and Hardscaped work
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/Hinoo Chowk/RNC/705
Tender ID: 2026_UDD_113699_1
Ref PR No.: 379049

Sl. No.	Particulars	As per NIT	As per Corrigendum - 1
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	28.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs	02.06.2026 at 17:00 Hrs
8	Date/Time of Opening of Bid	29.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs	03.06.2026 at 17:00 Hrs

Further details available on: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

PR 381084 (Urban Development)26-27*D

जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन ट्रस्ट का कार्यालय, सरायकेला खरसावाँ
(जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन ट्रस्ट)

Request for Proposal (RFP)(3rd Call)

Selection of Agency for Mushroom Spawn (Seed) Production unit establishment and training, production, value addition& market linkage of Mushroom in Seraikela - Kharsawan District of Jharkhand

जिला खनिज फाउन्डेशन ट्रस्ट (DMFT)सरायकेला–खरसावाँ द्वारा संचालित प्रधानमंत्री खनिज क्षेत्र कल्याण योजना (PMKKKY)के तहत सरायकेला–खरसावाँ जिला में मशरूम बीज उत्पादन केन्द्र की स्थापना, तथा मशरूम उत्पादन हेतु प्रशिक्षण एवं आवश्यक सामग्रियों उपकरणों की आपूर्ति, अधिष्ठापन, कच्चे माल की उपलब्धता, प्रसंस्करण एवं एक वर्ष तक विपणन लिंकेज, संचालन और रख–रखाव हेतु इस क्षेत्र के अनुभवी, निबंधित एवं इच्छुक गैर सरकारी संगठनों /सरकारी संगठनों /कम्पनी / संस्थानों / फर्म / उत्पादक एवं उनके प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि आदि से दिनांक 09.06.2026 के 11:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न तक प्रस्ताव आमन्त्रित की जाती है ।

RFP के निर्धारित पात्रता मानदंडों को पूरा करने वाले निविदादाता **https://seraikela.nic.in/** से संपूर्ण **RFP** दस्तावेज और अन्य विवरण प्राप्त एवं डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।

बोली प्रक्रिया के अंतर्गत प्रमुख विवरण इस प्रकार हैं:–

Sr. No.	List of Key Events	Critical Dates
1	Date of Issue of RFP	27-05-2026
2	Last Date for Submission of Bid	09-06-2026 till 11.30 AM
3	Date of Opening of Technical Bid and presentation	09-06-2026 at 1.00 PM in DMFT office
4	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	09-06-2026 at 2:00 PM in DMFT office
5	Method of Selection	QCBS
6	Tender fee	Rs 2000 non refundable (exempted for previously participated bidders)
7	EMD to be deposited (in Demand Draft)	Rs 1,50,000 (One lakh fifty thousand only) payable to District Mineral Foundation Trust, Seraikela Kharsawan
8	Security Deposit	5% of total project cost (including EMD) after successful bid

निविदा में **"तकनीकी बीड"** एवं**"वित्तीय बीड"** का अलग–अलग मुहरबन्द लिफाफा में जमा करना होगा, जिस पर निविदादाताओं का नाम, पता एवं मोबाईल नं0 स्पष्ट रूप से दर्ज हो। उन निविदादाताओं का ही **"वित्तीय बीड"** खोला जायेगा, जो **"तकनीकी बीड"** में सफल होंगे।

सभी तरह से पूर्ण प्रस्ताव एक सीलबंद लिफाफे में 09.06.2026 को 11:30 AM से पहले केवल भौतिक रूप से हस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास पहुंचना चाहिए, जिसके ऊपर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा होना चाहिए

"Selection of Agency for Mushroom Spawn (Seed) Production unit establishment and training, production, value addition& market linkage of Mushroom in Seraikela - Kharsawan District of Jharkhand"

अंतिम तिथि और समय के बाद प्राप्त प्रस्तावों को अस्वीकार कर दिया जाएगा। प्राधिकरण बिना कोई कारण बताए किसी भी प्रस्ताव को अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है।

निदेशक, लेखा प्रशासन एवं स्वनियोजन, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।
उप विकास आयुक्त–सह–सदस्य सचिव, जिला खनिज फाउन्डेशन ट्रस्ट, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।
उपायुक्त–सह–अध्यक्ष जिला खनिज फाउन्डेशन ट्रस्ट, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।

PR 380986 (District)26-27*D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

PUBLIC NOTICE

After completion of New line works in Pavagada - Doddahalli (Tumakuru District of Karnataka) section of Tumakuru - Rayadurga New Line, a speed trials will be conducted by South Western Railway **from 27.05.2026.** Further, as part of statutory inspection by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, a Speed trial by Special Train will be conducted in the section on **30.05.2026** and during the speed trial, trains will run at a speed in excess of **120 km/h** on the newly laid New Railway line and subsequently regular train services will be introduced on this Railway line. Public are hereby advised to be cautious and not to trespass the Railway line, which will endanger the lives. Trespassers are also liable for prosecution, which may please be noted.

Chief Administrative Officer/Construction
Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/164/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SIGNALING WORKS AT RANGIYA DIVISION

Tender Notice No. RN-ST-05-2026-27 Dated: 26-05-2026. Works tenders through "E" Tendering system for and on behalf of the president of India are invited for the works as detailed below:- **Tender No. RN-ST-05-2026-27. Name of work:** Signaling work in connection with provision of Full length Shunting neck at New Bongaigaon end on L/4 of Mirza station of Rangiya Division. **Tender Value:** ₹68,58,202.20/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹1,37,200/-. **Date & time of closing tender:** At **15.00** hrs. **& opening at 15.30** hrs. on **26-06-2026** at Sr. DSTE/Rangiya office. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DSTE/Rangiya

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)
Department of Space, Government of India

Engagement of Young Professional under IN-SPACe Young Professional Scheme
(ADVT.NO.IN-SPACE: 02:2026 Dated 30/05/2026)

IN-SPACE is an independent nodal agency under Department of Space (DOS) for promotion and authorization of Space activities and usage of DOS owned facilities by Non-Government Entities (NGEs).

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement as Young Professional under IN-SPACE Young Professional Scheme **for a period of 01 (One) year (extendable up to 03 - One year at time subject to need and satisfactory performance)** as per terms and conditions of IN-SPACE Young Professional Scheme.

YP Category	No. of Posts
Young Professional (Grade-1 / Grade-2) in various Directorates of IN-SPACe	10

The detailed advertisement is available on the website https://www.inspace.gov.in under announcement section. The last date for submission of application is 20/06/2026

Issued by IN-SPACe

CBC 49121/11/0001/2627

S. E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/21, dated 29.05.2026. Open e-Tenders for "E" Procurement system are invited by Principal Chief Materials Manager, S.E.Railway, Headquarters Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India, which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Qty.	EMD (in ₹)
1	25254752A	09/06/2026	SET OF BUSHES FOR WAP7 LOCOS	154 Set	1,46,160/-
2.	25261280	07/07/2026	Cable Head Termination (CHT)	29 Nos.	1,38,250/-
3	29263227	07/07/2026	HOSE COUPLING.	1891 Nos.	1,52,480/-
4	25263610	14/07/2026	Pantograph Insulator	1050 Nos.	2,60,440/-
5	29263216	21/07/2026	PRIMARY SPRING [END AXLE] etc.	1348 Nos.	2,94,010/-
6	25261285	28/07/2026	SET OF BRUSH HOLDER ASSEMBLY.	357 Set.	1,63,470/-
7	29263059	03/08/2026	Oil Cooling Unit for Transformer	63 Nos.	3,65,800/-
8	29263279	04/08/2026	SET OF INTERLOCK ASSEMBLY	96 Set	1,01,960/-
9	29264622	04/08/2026	MICROPROCESSOR BASED ELECTRONIC	129 Set	7,54,620/-
10	29264676	05/08/2026	OTOR FOR MAIN COMPRESSOR	120 Nos.	2,86,460/-
11	25263578	11/08/2026	Power Circuit Earth Fault Relay QOP	94 Nos.	1,86,290/-
12	29263184	12/08/2026	Set of Pressure Gauges	241 Set	4,99,610/-
13	25263891	13/08/2026	Parmanent Field Weakening Resistance Unit	18 Set	1,81,750/-
14	29263285	14/08/2026	Air Dryer	75 Nos.	2,65,320/-
15	25261261	17/08/2026	Carbon Brush for Hitachi TM	15449 Pair	1,38,180/-
16	75263044	22/06/2026	Flexible Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Flooring Sheet etc.	458 Nos.	1,59,960/-
17	60260017	22/06/2026	FISH PLATES (JOGGLED) FOR USE ON DEFECTIVE WELDED JOINT FOR B.G. 60 KG etc.	16000 Set	11,11,660/-
18	85263066A	17/06/2026	DOUBLE ROW SELF ALIGNING DIRECT MOUNTED ROLLER BEARING etc.	551 Nos.	2,90,630/-
19	79263136	30/06/2026	Soft blanket of superior quality with 4 cm wide (each side) etc.	28940 Nos.	1,97,490/-
20	40261637	24/06/2026	Thin walled Electronic Beam Irradiated/Chemically Cured Cross Linked Thin walled Flexible Elastomeric Cables with Copper Conductors (Multi Core) etc	6282 Mtr.	1,44,110/-
21	40263095	30/06/2026	25 sq mm Colour Black Electron Beam Irradiated, 1800/3000 V Grade,Single Core Copper Cable etc.	14576 Mtr.	1,12,830/-
22	65265005	18/06/2026	Hot Axle Box Detector (HABD) system. (Pre-bid meeting on 04-JUNE -26 12:00 hrs at PCMM Meeting Room/South Eastern Railway/Garden Reach, Kolkata-43)	36 Nos.	3,96,936/-
23	5626RGC_EP M220MM	24/06/2026	Running Contract/Price Agreement for supply of Electric Point Machine 220 mm etc.	800 Nos.	16,97,300/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B. :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR-248)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 13/SBC/26 of 20.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru sec : Proposed construction of PF 2 and 3 (Precast wall) for a length of 560 mtrs and 10.50 mtrs width and platform shelters (10.67 mtr width) at Shantigrama (SIGA) in Chikka Banavara (BAW) – Hassan (HAS) section, under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal subdivision. Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 2,94,80,766/-
2	Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru sec : Proposed Foot over Bridge (FOB) at Shantigrama (SIGA) station of Hassan (HAS) – Bengaluru (SBC) section under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal subdivision. Maintenance period is 12 months	Rs. 2,53,21,467/-
3	Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru Section: **Sub Work-I :** Bengaluru (SBC) - Salem (SA) Section: Proposed provision of tactile tiles (Divyang facilities) at Karmelaram (CRLM), Banaswadi (BAND), Hebbal (HEB), Heelalige (HLE), Kelamangalam (KMLM), Karuvalli (KVLR), Marandahalli (MZU), Palakkodu (PCV), Periya Naga Thunai (PRNT), Rayakkottai (RYC), Sivadi (SZV), Toppur (TPP), Muttampatti (MPC) and Semmandappatti (SMDT) (Total 14 stations), under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri subdivision. **Sub Work-II:** Proposed improvements to tactile path way (Divyang facilities) at Channarayapatna (CNPA), Kunigal (KIGL), B.G. Nagar (BGNR), D Samudhravalli (DSVS), Hirisave (HISE), Nelamangala (NMGA), Shantigrama (SIGA), Solur (SOLR), Thippasandra (TASA) and Yediyuru (YY) Stations, under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal subdivision. Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 1,83,03,216/-
4	Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru sec : Salem (SA) - Bengaluru (SBC) section : Proposed construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 58 at km 85/800-900 by RCC box between Dharmapuri (DPJ) - Palakkodu (PCV) stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Dharmapuri (DPJ) sub-division. RCC box size is 1 x 7.0 x 4.50 m (Barrel length = 13.7m) by rolling/launching method in Assistant Divisional Engineer /Dharmapuri sub-division. Maintenance period is 4 years	Rs. 6,62,78,820/-
5	Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru sec : Salem (SA) - Bengaluru (SBC) section : Proposed construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 48 at km 73/900-74/000 by RCC box between Dharmapuri (DPJ) - Palakkodu (PCV) stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri sub-division. RCC Box of size 1 x 7.0 x 4.50m (Barrel length = 13.7m) by rolling/launching method in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri sub-division. Maintenance period is 4 years	Rs. 7,75,19,135/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 15-06-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/167/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination, Bengaluru**

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Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Applications are invited for filling up the following posts in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Vacancies	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Executive Engineer (Civil)	01	On deputation

Eligibility Conditions for the post of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL):

Post : Executive Engineer (Civil) (Group 'A'-Gazetted) (Ministerial)
Number of Post : 01 (One)
Pay Scale : Level-11 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 67,700 - 2,08,700).

(a) (i) holding analogous post on a regular basis in the parent cadre or department; or
(ii) with nine years service rendered after appointment to the post as Assistant Engineer (Civil) on a regular basis in level-7 in the pay matrix (Rs.44900-142400) or equivalent in the parent cadre or equivalent in the parent cadre or department; or
(iii) Junior Engineer (Civil) with twelve years service rendered after appointment to the post on a regular basis in Level-6 in the pay matrix (Rs.35400-112400); and

(b) possessing the following educational qualifications and experience, namely:-
(i) Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from a recognized University or institute; and
(ii) minimum three years experience in construction and maintenance of residential and non-residential buildings including designing, estimating, contracts, supervision, etc.

Note 1: The departmental Assistant Engineer (Civil) in Level-7 in the pay matrix (Rs.44900-142400) with nine years regular service in the grade and having the educational qualifications and experience prescribed for considering appointment on deputation basis is considered along with outsiders. If the departmental candidate is selected for appointment to the post, it shall be treated as having been filled by promotion.

Note 2: The period of deputation (including short-term contract) including period of deputation (including short-term contract) in another ex-cadre post held immediately preceding this appointment in the same or other organisation or department of the Central Government shall ordinarily not exceed four years.

Note 3: The maximum age-limit for appointment on deputation (including short-term contract) shall not be exceeding fifty-six years as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

RE-EMPLOYMENT FOR ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL:

The Armed Forces Personnel due to retire or who are to be transferred to reserve within a period of one year and having the requisite experience and qualifications and experienced prescribed for deputationists, shall also be considered for deputation. If selected, such officers shall be given deputation terms up to the date on which they are due for release from the Armed Forces and thereafter, they may be continued on re-employment terms.

For application format, eligibility conditions, requisite qualifications, pay and allowances, and other details, log on to Ministry's website www.meity.gov.in to DoP&T's website www.dopt.gov.in.

Application duly prepared in the prescribed proforma should reach Deputy Secretary (Personnel), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, New Delhi - 110003, **within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.**

CBC 06101-11-0013-2627

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sri S. Bssavaraju is the absolute owner of the property, more fully described in the Schedule, having acquired under a Sale Deed dated 25/03/2025 executed by Sri Pradeep. S in favour of Sri S. Basavaraju, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Kanakapura as document No. KNK-1-17469-2024-25, in Book – I and dated 27/03/2025.

Sri S. Basavaraju irretrievably lost the original of Page No. 5 and 6 of the Sale Deed dated 18/10/2024 executed by (1) Sri Ravi Kiran. H.N (2) Kum. Dhruti Ravikiran rep by her GPA holder Sri Ravi Kiran. H.N (3) Master. Rishab Ravi Kiran being minor rep by his father and natural guardian Sri Ravi Kiran in favour of Pradeep. S, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Kanakapura as document No. KNK-1-09487-2024-25, in Book – I and dated 18/10/2024. Sri S. Basavaraju lodged a Police complaint with Bangalore City Police on 21/05/2026, and obtained E-Lost Report No. 2216526/2026. They have obtained Certified copy of the above sale deed.

If anyone finds the above pages of the documents, or if anyone is having this document in their custody, the same may be handed over to the undersigned within **Fifteen days** from the date of this Public Notice. If any person or persons or financial institution or Bank has any claim over the schedule property or any person or persons claim any right, title or interest, over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within **Fifteen days** from today, along with relevant claim documents, failing which, it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any such claim and any claim received thereafter will not bind my clients or their mortgagees or subsequent purchasers, and would not be considered by my client or subsequent transferees. For the purposes of future transactions, the said pages of the sale deed will be treated as irretrievably lost.

SCHEDULE

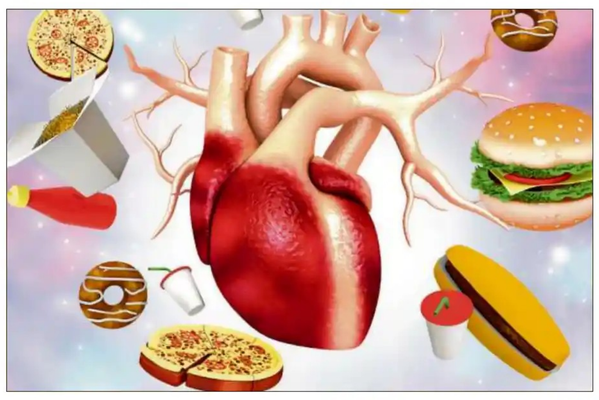
All that piece and parcel of Site No. 22, Property No. 4030/16/1/16/2/17/1/17/2/17/3/22, Assessment No. 4030/16/1/16/2/17/1/17/2/17/3/22, presently as per the Harohalli Pattana Panchayathi, Property No. 8009446596, situated in the layout known as 'Gopalakrishna Rao Layout' standing on Sy. No. 17/2 of Harohalli Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara, now known as Bangalore South District (and the Layout is formed on Converted lands bearing Sy Nos. 16/1, 16/2, 17/1, 17/2, 17/3 converted for non-agricultural residential purposes vide Official Memorandum No. ALN. CR 56/1984-85 dated 30/05/1985, ALN. CR 18/1983-84 dated 19/07/1984, ALN CR 70/1990-91 dated 18/02/1991 & ALN. CR 71/1990-91 dated 18/02/1991) and layout plan is approved by Kanakapura Planning Authority vide No. KPA/LAO/103/2020-21/1591 dated 11/03/2022 and Release Order No. KPA/LAO/103/2020-21/1592 dated 11/03/2022, Kanakapura Taluk, Measuring East to West: 12.192024 Meters or 40 feet and North to South: 9.144018 Meters or 30 feet, totally measuring 111.4836 square meters or 1200 square feet, and bounded on

East by : Site No. 21
West by : Road
North by : Site No. 23
South by: Road

T.D. RAMACHANDRA, Advocate
No.47/5, 1st Floor, Prashanth Nagar, Opp. Vedantha PU College, Bangalore-560 111
Mob : 9449825001. Dated: 29/05/2026

Lifestyle diseases increase significantly in state: NFHS 6

Data shows diabetes up among both women and men



SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Lifestyle diseases, like obesity, hypertension and diabetes, are on the rise in the state, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS 6) data has revealed..

According to the data, diabetes, among both women and men, has increased significantly over the years.

While the prevalence of hypertension has only marginally increased among women, obesity has been a cause of concern. Doctors attributed the increase in such diseases to a changing lifestyle among youngsters.

"Sedentary lifestyle is the major cause. Now, we see many youngsters coming to us with such diseases. While there are some cases where youngsters develop diabetes owing to genetic predisposition, in the majority of the cases, some minor lifestyle changes can help prevent early onset of such diseases," Soumya K, consultant, Department of General Medicine at a private hospital, said.

Apart from a sedentary lifestyle, increasing consumption of unhealthy foods, stress, smoking and consumption of alcohol were the leading causes for an increase in such diseases, the data has shown.

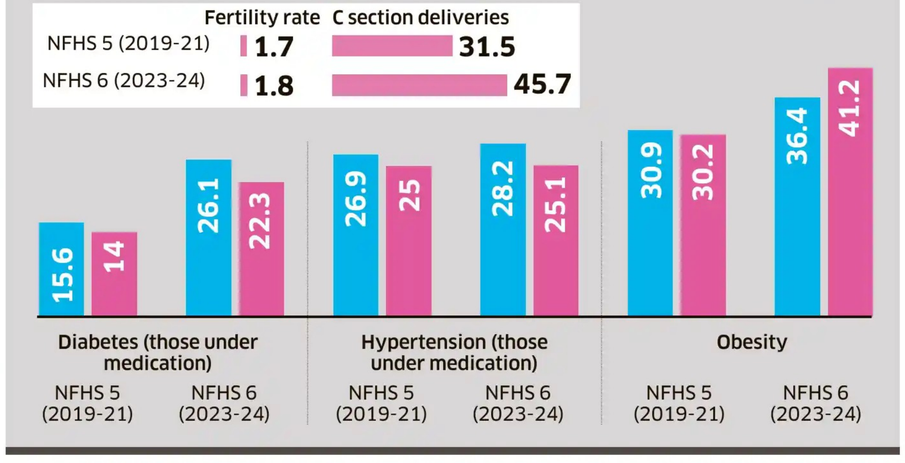
The data has also revealed that the prevalence of such diseases has increased significantly even among the rural population, contrary to the idea that only the urban population was following an unhealthy lifestyle.

While doctors opined that the unhealthy practices had increased,

NFHS 6 also pointed out that the state's population is trying to adopt a healthier lifestyle. Increasing awareness and early onset of diseases might have forced people to adopt a healthier lifestyle, experts said.

Use of tobacco among women declined from 8.6% to 6.4%, and even among men, it came down from 27.3% to 24.2%. Consumption of alcohol has also come down significantly from 16.6% to 15.6% among men and from 0.9% to 0.5% among women.

WORRYING NUMBERS (Figues in %)



Fertility rate goes up marginally in Karnataka: survey

Attributed to rising awareness on assisted procedures

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid concerns over delayed pregnancies, the National Family Health Survey 6 has revealed that the fertility rate in Karnataka has increased marginally from 1.7 (children per woman) in 2019-21 to 1.8 (children per woman) in 2023-24.

According to survey results, the fertility rate is higher at 1.8 in rural areas and 1.7 in urban areas.

Experts opined that this could be due to rising awareness among people about the availablity of assisted reproductive procedures.

"Many couples now go for multiple IVF cycles. With advancements in medical procedures, awareness has also increased and as a result, fertility rate may have gone up marginally. However, it is still not at the expected replacement levels or at the level it was earlier," said Dr Kasthuri N, Consultant - Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at a private hospital.

The NFHS 6 also revealed that more women are now visiting healthcare facilities for childbirth and institutional births have increased from 97% to 98.7%. However, the survey also reflected increasing concerns over the use of public health facilities as births in public facilities dropped from 64.8% to 58.1%.

Doctors opined that there is some hesitation among the public about the quality of service in government facilities and with the rise in affordability and standards of living more people now prefer to give birth in private healthcare facilities.

Prenatal and postnatal care for women has also improved significantly, the survey results showed.

C-Section deliveries more in urban areas

The NFHS 6 data revealed a drastic increase in the Cesarean section deliveries in the state. From just 31.5% in 2019-21, C-section deliveries increased to 45.7% in 2023-24. While such deliveries were relatively low at 40.2% among the rural population, at 52.6%, more than half of the childbirth in urban areas were through Caesarean section.

Doctors opined that the decreasing threshold for pain, fear, and increasing affordability were now pushing more women to opt for Caesarean delivery. That apart, late pregnancies and unhealthy lifestyle had also made pregnancies complicated making caesarean section unavoidable.

Scientific surveillance to identify, monitor antimicrobial resistance

AMR one of most serious emerging public health threats

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Department of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, has launched a scientific surveillance initiative to identify and monitor Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in all districts of the state.

The initiative aims to generate scientific data to support informed policy decisions, strengthen public health preparedness and improve long-term health outcomes for the people of Karnataka.

Antimicrobial resistance is increasingly recognised as one of the most serious emerging public health threats globally, reducing the e ectiveness of antibiotics and increasing the burden of severe infections, prolonged hospitalisation, healthcare costs and preventable mortality.

Under the initiative, systematic collection and analysis of samples will be undertaken across selected surveillance sites to better understand resistance trends, emerging microbial threats and geographic variations in antimicrobial resistance.

The findings will support antibiotic stewardship programmes, infection prevention strategies, and targeted public health interventions across the state.

Dr Swethavalli Raghavan is the advisor to the state government on Antimicrobial Resistance. "India su ers from major gaps in real-time surveillance. Karnataka now has an opportunity to lead the country by building a scientifically rigorous, governance-integrated antimicrobial resistance surveillance ecosystem capable of informing rapid, evidence-based interventions," she stated.

10th Yellow Line train to be inducted within three days

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is set to induct the 10th train on the Namma Metro Yellow Line for commercial service within the next three days, with service trials currently underway.

Last week, the BMRCL inducted the ninth train, but continued operations with only eight trains, keeping one as a spare for emergencies and maintenance.

"The service trials for the 10th train are currently ongoing. We hope to induct the train in the next two to three days after operations pass all checks. Everything is moving as per schedule," said Sumit Bhatnagar, Director (Rolling Stock, Signalling and Electrical).

The BMRCL received the 10th train for the Yellow Line at the end of April. Once it is inducted, additional services will be introduced.

"As it is an operational line, we only get three hours at night for service trials. Hence, it takes time," he added.

At present, following the induction of the eighth train in February, the Yellow Line operates at nine-minute intervals during peak hours from Monday to Saturday, compared to the earlier 10-minute frequency. On Sundays, trains run at 14-minute intervals.

Service trials for the 11th train are also expected to be completed in the second week of June, with its induction likely in the same week.

With 10 trains in commercial operation, peak-hour frequency on the 19.75-km RV Road–Bommasandra metro line is expected to improve to six to seven minutes.

2-hr disruption in Purple Line metro services

Metro train services between the Deepanjalinagar and Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) metro stations will remain suspended for two hours on Sunday morning, as the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) undertakes maintenance work on sections of the Purple Line.

According to the BMRCL, train operations on the affected stretch will be temporarily halted from 7 am to 9 am on Sunday to facilitate essential maintenance work between the Attiguppe and Vijayanagar stations.

Former minister Venkataramanappa no more

Venkataramanappa

PAVAGADA (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS

Former minister and veteran Congress leader Venkataramanappa (85) died of heart attack at a private hospital in Bengaluru in the early hours of Friday.

A four-time MLA, Venkataramanappa entered the Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1989 on Congress ticket. He won the election as an Independent in 2008. He joined BJP and was a Sericulture and Small Industries minister in Yediyurappa Cabinet. He won the Assembly election in 2018 on a Congress ticket. Venkataramanappa retired from active politics in 2023 paving the way for his son, H V Venkatesh, a sitting MLA and TUMUL president. Last rites will be performed on Saturday, family sources said.

5 from Challakere die as car rear-ends stationary lorry

CHITRADURGA, DHNS

Five people from Challakere, aged between 32 and 46, died on the spot after a car rammed they were travelling in rammed into a stationary lorry near Tumkurlahalli Gate in Molakalmuru taluk of Chitradurga district late Thursday night.

The deceased have been identified as: M Thipperudrappa (40), a meat stall owner, Raghavendra Kumar (40), a photo studio owner, V Y Pramod (32), former CMC member, Somashekar (40), a member of Veeradimmanahalli GP and Mallikarjun (46), a resident of Kubernagar.

According to police, the accident occurred after the car's tyre burst, causing the driver to lose control before it rear-ended the parked lorry.

They were travelling from Ballari to Challakere when the accident took place.

Police inspected the accident site and shifted the bodies to the hospital for post-mortem examination. A case has been registered at the Molakalmuru station and investigation is underway.

Italian consulate hosts National Day celebrations

BENGALURU, DHNS

Italian Consul General Giandomenico Milano and members of the Italian delegation host a reception in Bengaluru on Friday to mark Italy's National Day. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

The Consul General of Italy in Bengaluru hosted a reception on Friday to mark Italy's National Day, highlighting growing cooperation between Italy and India in technology, culture, education and industry.

Speaking at the event, Consul General Giandomenico Milano said ties between the two countries were becoming increasingly strategic, driven not only by diplomatic engagement, but also by collaborations among companies, universities, artists and researchers.

The event commemorated the 80th anniversary of the 1946 referendum through which Italy became a republic. Milano noted that the referendum marked a defining moment in Italian history and was also the first national vote in which Italian women participated fully.

The Consul General highlighted Karnataka's emergence as a hub for technology, aerospace, advanced manufacturing and scientific research, saying it had opened new opportunities for collaboration with Italian institutions and businesses.

"We want to build a multifaceted relationship with Bengaluru. It is the place to be right now. We're really pushing innovation and technology partnerships. We'll be hosting multiple business delegations in the city from various parts of Italy," he told *DH*, adding that the consulate was particularly keen on building partnerships in the field of science.

The event also focused on the role of culture in strengthening bilateral ties.

On the art front, the Italian consulate in Bengaluru is organising an exhibition featuring artworks and artefacts from Italy and India, set to open at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in Bengaluru on August 13.

The exhibition will feature a Renaissance masterpiece by Italian painter Sandro Botticelli, along with ancient Roman and Etruscan sculptures. It will also showcase Gandhara artefacts loaned by Indian museum institutions, reflecting artistic and cultural exchanges across regions and eras.

Udupi, DK set for hotter days in next 15 years, says study

Projected 15-cm rise in sea level likely to bring intense storms, floods

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts are set to see excess heat with temperatures set to go up by 1.1 degrees Celsius within the next 15 years while several districts in India's coastline are projected to see much worse, a new assessment by researchers from Azim Premji University says.

Many climate change projections usually focus on the changes taking place 30, 40 or 50 years later. Such studies are often seen as projecting distant futures.

The study looked at the period of 2021-2040, to make the extent of the crisis "very real" for all of us today.

While coastal districts of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are expected to see mercury climbing by 1.1 to 1.3 degrees Celsius, the rest of the country will see an increase of at least 0.55 to 0.98 degrees Celsius. What seems like a small increase may translate into a deadly 'wet bulb' phenomenon in many of the coastal areas.

For instance, the study notes that the "entire east coast is a furnace" during summer. Slightest increase in temperatures will have a major impact in these areas, especially the poor and vulnerable from marginalised castes and sections of the society.

"The data in this report is a mirror that reflects a reality we can no longer afford to ignore. For decades, we treated climate change as a global abstraction - a problem of polar ice caps and distant centuries. But our findings show that for the Indian coastline, the crisis is hyper-local and immediate... We have a short window of time to move from reactive mitigation to proactive adaptation," Harini Nagendra, Director, School of Climate Change and Sustainability, Azim Premji University, said.

Coastal districts of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are expected to see mercury climbing by 1.1 to 1.3 degrees Celsius. DH FILE PHOTO

Meanwhile, the projected 15 cm rise in the sea level between 2020 and 2050 is likely to bring intense storms and floods, leading to increased coastal erosion. A warming ocean will create favourable circumstances for the formation of more cyclones, the study noted.

The study derived its projections from the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project - Phase 6 (CMIP6), the widely accepted modelling project designed to understand the past, present and future changes in the climate.

The study corrected the data for regional bias to help various stakeholders make informed decisions in the face of climate change

"What greater call to action do we need? We must get together to shape policy action on the ground, also calling on business, civil society, and the general population," Anurag Behar, CEO, Azim Premji Foundation, said in the foreword to the report.

Five of Chadchan family among six hacked to death over land dispute

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS

A property dispute turned fatal as six people, including a five members of a family, were hacked to death with sharp weapons by a group of 15 to 20 miscreants at Govindpur village in Chadchan taluk of Vijayapura district on Friday evening.

The police identified the murder victims as Chandu Nirale (56), Dundappa Nirale (65), Shivaputra Nirale (60), Rahul Nirale (35), Samarth Nirale (24) and Shabbir Nadaf (50).

Superintendent of Police Laxman Nimbaragi and other senior police officials visited the spot. Additional police personnel have been deployed at the village following the incident.

According to the police, the members of the Nirale family were preparing the farmland that was bought six months ago. The assailants equipped with sharp weapons, including machete, and chilli powder, attacked on the Nirale family and hacked them to death.

The Nirale family from Chadchan had bought 24 acres of land from a resident of Govindpur six months back against the advice of the villagers.

Sources said, the incident occurred during a mediation meeting convened to resolve the dispute between the Nirale family and another family from Govindpur.

The police said the exact sequence of events and the circumstances that led to murders are yet to be ascertained..

The Chadchan police have registered a case and investigation is underway.

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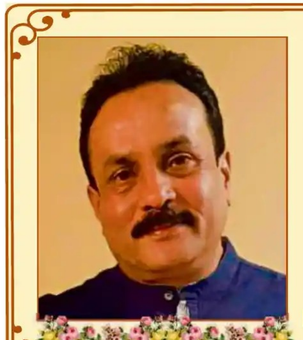
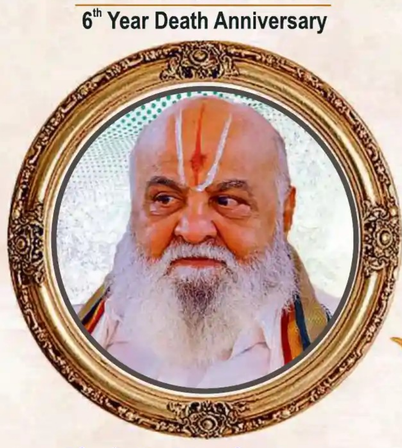
BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Shri S Muralidharan
30.05.1966 - 05.06.2024
"Your life was a blessing, and your memory continues to inspire us every day."
Fondly Remembered by:
Family members

IN LOVING MEMORY
6th Year Death Anniversary



Shri. S. Venkatesan
Chartered Accountant
03.09.1944 TO 30.05.2020
शैले शैले न माणिक्यं मौक्तिकं न गजे गजे !
सज्जना : न हि सर्वत्र चन्दनं न वने वने !!
GEETHA VENKATESAN AND FAMILY
Associates and Staff Of
S. Venkatesan & Co. Bengaluru

Over a fifth of Indian women suffered spousal violence in 2023-24: Report

Spousal violence, From Page 1

Karnataka has emerged as a success story as the percentage of women experiencing sexual violence dropped to 14.1% in NFHS-6, as against 44.4% recorded in the previous survey. The practice is three times more common in rural Karnataka than in the cities.

In Kerala, where 87% of girls have schooling up to 10th standard or more, the prevalence of sexual violence against married women by the spouse has almost doubled to 17.7% as against 9.8% in the previous survey. Once again, the occurrence is more in villages.

Among the other three southern states, women are subjected to violence the most in Telangana (30.8%), followed by Tamil Nadu (28.5) and Andhra Pradesh (22.7). The prevalence, however, has decreased in all three states when figures are compared to the previous study.

On the positive side, internet use by women across the country has doubled from more than 33% in 2019-21 to over 64% in 2023-24.

In Kerala, 87.3% of women actively use the internet, followed by Telangana (64.8), Andhra Pradesh (63.6), Tamil Nadu (59.5) and Karnataka (57.9). Five years ago, the corresponding numbers were significantly low for all the southern states barring Kerala.

The survey also shows 64% of women nationwide have their own cell phones and over 30% of them are employed and received salaries in the last 12 months. Women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use increased from 78.6% to 89.0%, and women having a mobile phone that they themselves use rose from 53.9% to 63.6%.

Nevertheless, 20% women between 20-24 years still get married before they turn 18. These figures are better in southern India – Andhra Pradesh is the worst with 25% - as against states like West Bengal (36.4), Bihar (34.6) and Jharkhand (28.1).

El Nino effect: Monsoon to be 90% of average

Monsoon, From Page 1

The last time met office predicted such a low-rainfall was in 2015, an El Nino year, when the forecast was for 88% of average rain.

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of meteorology at IMD said there is an 84% probability of the monsoon being "deficient" (less than 90%) or "below normal" (90-95%).

"The south west monsoon seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 90% of the long period average with a model error of 4% on either side, indicating that below normal rainfall is most likely over the country," the IMD says in a statement. India's long period average rainfall, calculated over 50 years, is 87 cm.

Currently, neutral El Nino-Southern Oscillation conditions are transitioning towards El Nino conditions over the equatorial Pacific region.

The latest climate model forecasts indicate that the El Nino conditions, which adversely impact India most of the time, are likely to develop during the latter half of the monsoon season.

The country's four trillion dollar economy relies on the monsoon that delivers about 70% of annual rains to replenish crucial water sources as nearly half of farmland lacks irrigation and about half the population earns its livelihood from farming.

For north west India, the forecast is for less than 92% rain whereas for the central and southern peninsula, IMD predicts less than 94% of average rainfall.

The east and the north east will get 94-106% of average rainfall. For the core area that stretches from Gujarat on the west to Jharkhand and Odisha on the east, the forecast is for less than 94% of average.

Mohapatra said two to three additional days of heatwaves are expected in June in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and along the east coast.

Both day and night temperatures will be above normal in better parts of India in June.

CLP meet today, race on...

CLP meet, From Page 1

The plan is to have a "relatively young" team, and over 20 ministers from the previous Siddaramaiah Cabinet may be dropped.

Clarity is yet to emerge on the number of deputies Shivakumar will have. Up to four deputy chief ministerial positions are being discussed, one each from the Lingayat, SC, minorities and OBC communities.

Bableshwar MLA M B Patil, a Lingayat who served as the industries minister in the previous administration, has emerged as a frontrunner for one of the deputy CM posts.

Koratagere MLA G Parameshwara, a former party president and a Dalit, may also become a deputy CM.

Parameshwara was the home minister in the previous government and deputy chief minister in 2018-19.

Sources indicate that the high command is not averse to the idea of making Yathindra a deputy CM so as to ensure the stability of the Shivakumar government.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast May 30: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	34	23.4	00
Bidar	41	26.4	00
Vijayapura	38.5	23.9	00
Dharwad	34	22.8	00
Haveri	35.2	24.2	00
Kalaburagi	39.4	26.2	00
Raichur	36.4	23	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.5	25.6	09
Karwar	33.4	26	0.8
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.6	27.9	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	30.1	21.6	0.5
Bengaluru	32.4	22.6	0.3
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	32.9	23	00
Davangere	33	21.8	00
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	33.2	22	02
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	33.6	22.8	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	41.1	25.3	04
Kolkata	34.8	25.4	05
Mumbai	34.9	29.6	00
Chennai	41.2	27.7	00
Pune	38.4	24.5	00
Hyderabad	39.6	29.6	00
Th'puram	29.5	24.8	28

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ARTHI MAHESWARI MANIVANNAN, residing at Flat No. D-51, Bearys Anugraha Apartments, No. 18, 1st Cross, KSFC Layout, Lingarajpuram, Bengaluru-560084, have changed my name to ARTHI MANIVANNAN vide affidavit dated 29/05/2026 before Notary Bhaya Kumari N, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, HARISH M, R/at # 69, Anantha Nair Road, Jayarajnagar Park Road, Hoysala Nagar, Murphy Town, Halasuru, Bengaluru-560008, have changed my minor daughter's name from GOWAKSHARA MUTHAIAH H to SHARIKA HARISH, vide affidavit dt: 29.05.2026 before notary S.I. Balaguru, Bengaluru. Henceforth, she shall be called as SHARIKA HARISH only.

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, Victor Rodrigues, residing at Banakal Village, Mudigere, Chikmagaluru, have lost my Original Sale Deed Document No./ Identification: MGE-1-00191-2011-2012. Property Document No. 150900 4017002 01187. While in transit. If found please contact: 9448616084 (Lost Report No.2148161/2026)

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No student from K'taka in top 10 COMED-K rank list

Of the total 1,10,774 candidates who appeared for test, 73,820 from outside state

BENGALURU, DHNS

The performance of students from Karnataka in the Under Graduate Entrance Test conducted by Consortium of Medical Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMED-K) is going down every year with no student from the state figuring in this year's top 10 rank list.

The results of COMED-K UGET 2026 for admissions to undergraduate engineering courses were announced on Friday and all the top 10 rank holders were from outside Karnataka.

Interestingly, of the top 10 performers, five are from Jharkhand, and one each from Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Uttarakhand.

In 2025, there were six students from Karnataka in the top 10 list. However, in the top 100 ranks, 30 are from Karnataka.

Even when we look at the number of candidates who appeared for the test, a majority of them are non-residents of Karnataka. Of the 1,10,774 candidates, who appeared for the test conducted on May 9 at 303 exam centres in 171 cities across the nation, 36,954 were from the state, while 73,820 were from other states.

As per the results shared by the authorities, 11,207 candidates are in 90th to 100th percentile and out of that 3,496 candidates are from Karnataka. Similarly, of the 11,385 candidates are in the 80th to 90th percentile, 3,207 candidates are from Karnataka. Of the 10,940 candidates, who are in between 70th and 80th percentile, 3,111 candidates are from Karnataka.

The candidates can access their ranks through their respective 'Applicant login'. Rank cards of the eligible candidates will be generated and made available on the website www.comedk.org

The candidates can access their ranks through their respective 'Applicant login'. Rank cards of the eligible candidates will be generated and made available on the website www.comedk.org

Authorities have stated that counseling would be conducted online this year too and the candidates have to upload the scanned copies of the documents through their login. These uploaded documents will be verified by the panel of expert verification officers.

The number of seats available, the quantum of tuition fees and counselling dates will be notified soon. "Also, a separate a set of Counselling Process Document detailing the procedure for participating in the Counselling would also be made available shortly and the candidates are required to refer to the website regularly for all the updates, besides familiarising themselves with the seat selection process thoroughly," the COMED-K authorities said.

The Top 10 rank holders are - Darshil Modi from Ranchi, Jharkhand; Priyanuj Bhagabati from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand; Shreshta Gupta from Dehradun, Uttarakhand; Arsh Parashar from Jharkhand; Ishanka Agarwal from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand; Aneesh Shukla from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand; Narendrababu Gari Mahith from Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh; Drishti Sachdeo from Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh; Manas Jindal from Punjab and Aditya Kumar from Bihar.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

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Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work. Construction of Government First Grade College at Hebbal in Bengaluru under State fund 2024-25 & 2025-26 scheme. (Phase-1&2). **WORK INDENT No.** KHB/2026-27/BD/ WORK_INDENT 757 & IFT No. 24/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026 . **Amount put to tender:** Rs.5,81,96,127/-

Last date for submission of bid: 25.06.2026 up to 4 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

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Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

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ಸಂ.ದೊಪಪಂ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/05/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಟ್ಟದಾಸನಪುರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ಸ್ವಂತ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಂತೆ ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

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01	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58848
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03	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58845
04	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58844
05	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58843
06	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58842
07	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58840

1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18.06.2026**ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20.06.2026**ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 3. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 4. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22111177. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
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ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/881/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

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No. RGR/ACAD/ADMN/2/2026-ACDM-KVAFSU ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26-05-2026

ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ವಿಷಯ:– 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮಾ (ಪಶು ಸಂಗೋಪನೆ) ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಕುರಿತು.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಶುವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ, ಪಶು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೀದರದ ಐದು ಪಶುಸಂಗೋಪನಾ ಪಾಲಿಟೆಕ್ನಿಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷದ ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮಾ (ಪಶು ಸಂಗೋಪನೆ) ಕೋರ್ಸಿಗೆ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ./ತತ್ಸಮಾನ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೇರ್ಗಡೆಯಾಗಿ, 1ರಿಂದ 10ನೇ ತರಗತಿವರೆಗೆ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ: 01–06–2026 ರಿಂದ 30–06–2026ರವರೆಗೆ. ಇತರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kvafsu.edu.in/admission.html** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ.

ಆದೇಶದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ

ಸಹಿ/–
(ಡಾ. ಪಿ.ಟಿ.ರಮೇಶ)
ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು

Government of Karnataka — Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/TECH//2026-27/468 Date:29.05.2026

Corrigendum

Dates postponed notificateion
e-procurement portal only

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under KMERC head of account grant for 4 works ((Indent No:RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT20501,RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_ INDENT24347, RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT25351,RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 25353)) dates are postponed. The Estimated Cost is Minimum Rs.728.71 lakhs Maximum 1171.39 lakhs Total Rs:3790.23 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:-

PRESENT DATES

(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date : 30.05.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date : 01.06.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.00 **(3)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date : 02.06.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.01 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date : 03.06.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.02

POSTPONED DATES

(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date : 04.06.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date : 05.06.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.00 **(3)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date : 06.06.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.01 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date : 08.06.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.02

Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.132:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:-khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಹಾಸನ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯುಷ್ಮಾನ್ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮಂದಿರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಮಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 4 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.53,63 ರಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.54.83 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 08.06.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 09.06.2026 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/DDMYS/239/KSMCA/176/2026-27

Siddu to discuss loyalists' cabinet berths after CLP meet

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Caretaker Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has told his supporters that he will take up the issue of their inclusion in the new Cabinet only after the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting.

Siddaramaiah, who was in the national capital on Friday, met top Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi.

He, along with his son and MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, held a detailed breakfast meeting with Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal.

He later called on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

When some of his loyalists met him and urged him to push for their induction into the ministry, Siddaramaiah is understood to have conveyed that he would raise their cases with the party's high command only after the CLP meeting.

Meanwhile, senior ST leader and minister Satish Jarkiholi has expressed his willingness to take over as the state Congress president while continuing as a minister. He is learnt to have apprised the high command of precedents of leaders simultaneously holding the posts of state unit president and minister.

CM-designate DKS may have to navigate fiscal, political minefield

'Troubleshooter reputation should stand him in good stead'

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister-designate D K Shivakumar takes charge with less than two years to go for the 2028 Assembly polls, and experts say the political and fiscal minefield ahead will test both his reputation as a troubleshooter and his political messaging.

"Anytime you take over as the CM midstream, you need to deal with power structures and the changes in power structures," notes political analyst Dr Sandeep Shastri, adding that the immediate test will be Cabinet formation.

"With only 34 berths, ministerial aspirations and demands for political accommodation will be a challenge. With Siddaramaiah hoping to continue as MLA and remain active in state politics, there is the possibility of a rival power centre," said Shastri.

Dinesh Aminmattu, former media advisor to Chief Minister, said Siddaramaiah's transition into his next role will be crucial to help the new Congress government shift gears with minimal friction. "A total overhaul of the Cabinet makes sense only in peacetime, not wartime. He should retain senior leaders like Parameshwara, Krishna Byre Gowda and Zameer in the Cabinet," Amin said, adding that an image makeover projecting Shivakumar as "more amicable" would build credibility.

"Unlike Siddaramaiah, who has an empathetic, pro-poor image, Shivakumar's tough exterior and perception as pro-industry may not inspire enough public trust to push even well-meaning projects without conscious effort," Amin said.

Shivakumar's soft Hindutva positioning, guarded silence on issues like the hijab ban and opposition to the caste survey have also earned him distrust among sections of the Ahinda bloc, especially Muslims and Dalits.

Outgoing Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar greets Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during a meeting in New Delhi on Friday. PTI PHOTO

DINESH AMINMATTU
Former media advisor to CM Siddaramaiah

> A total overhaul of the Cabinet makes sense only in peacetime, not wartime. He should retain senior leaders like Parameshwara, Krishna Byre Gowda and Zameer in the Cabinet. an image makeover projecting Shivakumar as "more amicable" would build credibility.

"With Siddaramaiah's exit, the Kuruba community could shift towards NDA. Rising Muslim assertion and fragmentation among Dalit and OBC communities through BJP's social engineering can dent Congress's core vote. Only a leader matching Siddaramaiah's stature and appeal among Ahinda can help Congress electorally," Amin reasoned.

A Vokkaliga strongman, Shivakumar is still not the undisputed leader of his community. "His brother DK Suresh losing Bengaluru Rural proves Vokkaligas are still with the Deve Gowda family," Amin argued.

Shastri, however, sees an upside. "Shivakumar's political experience and his role as troubleshooter should stand him in good stead. His politics of consensus, unlike Siddaramaiah's confrontational approach with the Modi government, could recalibrate Karnataka's engagement with the Centre. He has a better understanding of the Delhi durbar and the willingness to negotiate."

The fiscal challenge is equally pressing. Public finance expert Madhusudhan Rao said Shivakumar must balance financial prudence with political compulsions as guarantee schemes are increasingly seen as a burden.

"He should stick to the guarantees along with an inflationary budget. By completing irrigation projects quickly and negotiating cheaper energy contracts, Shivakumar can demonstrate administrative efficiency while containing costs," Rao said.

Time is another constraint. Shivakumar is likely to get only one full-fledged State Budget before the 2028 polls. "It is a narrow window to translate decisions into visible outcomes. He should fast-track projects like Peripheral Ring Road 2 and Bidadi township to prove credibility," Rao added.

A 'naughty' boy in school, DKS had leadership qualities early on

Educationist K P Gopalakrishna, JD(S) leader YSV Datta recall their association with Shivakumar

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

It was during school days, the Chief Minister-designate D K Shivakumar developed a taste for electoral politics. But in the school, Shivakumar was also identified as a "naughty" boy.

According to educationist K P Gopalakrishna, the founder-chairperson of National Public School (NPS) where Shivakumar received primary education, he was disciplined but naughty. "I never call him DKShi or Shivakumar, I call him Shiva. Even after going out of my institution, he used to visit me often which has continued even today," Gopalakrishna said.

As shared by Gopalakrishna, Shivakumar was interested more in sports than academics. "He was an average student inside the classroom, but good in sports. He used to play all the sports. There were over 12 students from his family in our Rajajinagar school," he remembered.

It can be recalled that in one of his old interviews to a private TV channel, Shivakumar mentioned that Gopalakrishna issued him Transfer Certificate (TC) after class 5. Then he joined Carmel School and later the college run by Vidyavardhaka Sangha. He also mentioned in the interview that he might have been issued TC because of his naughtiness. Later, Shivakumar educated his three children in the same school.

Senior JD(S) leader YSV Datta, who taught Shivakumar, said that the would-be CM had demonstrated leadership qualities early on.

"Shivakumar was a science student and used to attend my tuition classes after college hours. He was having leadership qualities since PUC itself. I could still remember 15 to 20 students coming with him whenever he attended tuition," Datta remembers.

Datta once even warned Shivakumar for being mischievous in the class. "I once warned him of throwing out of the class as he was naughty, used to sit with a group of friends and talk in the class," he added.

The JD(S) leader claimed that Shivakumar respects him as a teacher even today.

"Even though he attended my classes for a short period, he treats and respects me as one of his teachers. I wish him all the best and proud that one of my students is becoming the chief minister of the state," Datta said.

Shivakumar hails Siddaramaiah's 'unwavering commitment to social justice'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief minister-designate D K Shivakumar on Friday hailed acting CM Siddaramaiah's political journey as a "testament to resilience, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to social justice."

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Shivakumar said: "The impact of several public welfare schemes and the many developmental initiatives undertaken during his tenure will remain significant chapters in Karnataka's growth story. Over nearly five decades in public life, he has shaped the political and social fabric of our state through people-centric governance and inclusive leadership."

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Outgoing Deputy Chief Minister

> If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together

On Friday, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot accepted Siddaramaiah's resignation as the chief minister, but asked him to continue till "alternative arrangements" are made.

Recollecting his work with Siddaramaiah since he was appointed as the KPCC chief in 2020 (Siddaramaiah was the leader of the Opposition at the time), the 64-year-old strongman noted that Siddaramaiah had stood beside him like a "pillar of strength."

"It has been a privilege to serve alongside him as Deputy Chief Minister and to continuously learn from his experience, wisdom, and political foresight. I sincerely hope his guidance will continue to inspire and strengthen all of us in the years ahead as we work towards Karnataka's progress and welfare."

As the saying goes, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together," Shivakumar added.

A busy day for Shivakumar in national capital

Senior Congress leader D K Shivakumar, widely tipped to be the next Chief Minister of Karnataka, held crucial meetings with the party's top leadership in the national capital on Friday.

Shivakumar, who arrived in Delhi on Thursday night, met Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal were also present during the meeting.

The Vokkaliga leader held separate meetings with Kharge and Venugopal, focusing primarily on the upcoming Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting and future political developments in the state, sources said.

He also held discussions with caretaker Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Former Lok Sabha member D K Suresh joined his brother.

Speaking to reporters, Shivakumar said consultations with the Congress high command on Cabinet formation were still continuing.

"Everything is being done as per the guidance of the high command. Nothing has been finalised so far. We have convened the CLP meeting tomorrow and our central leaders are expected to participate. Discussions with the high command are still going on," he said.

The leader confirmed that all Congress legislators have been asked to remain in Bengaluru ahead of the CLP meeting, which is expected to play a decisive role in the party's next leadership move in Karnataka.

A day after he steps down, Cong praises Siddu

Commends dignified transition of power

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A day after Siddaramaiah stepped down as chief minister of Karnataka, the Congress high command on Friday praised the veteran Kuruba leader for ensuring a smooth transition of power and described him as an "uncompromising upholder of secular values."

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary (in charge of Communication) Jairam Ramesh took to the social platform X to appreciate Siddaramaiah.

"Shri@siddaramaiah's public life has consistently reflected dignity, compassion, and a deep commitment to social justice," Kharge posted.

"From humble beginnings to serving Karnataka twice as Chief Minister, he remained steadfast in his commitment to equality, harmony, and the welfare of the marginalised," Kharge said. He further stated that both Karnataka and the Congress party remain grateful for Siddaramaiah's contributions and wished him good health and success in his continued service to the people.

Separately, Jairam Ramesh commended the dignity shown by Siddaramaiah during the leadership change.

"The dignity with which he has been participating in the transition of power in the state has enhanced his stature immeasurably," Ramesh said.

"Siddaramaiah will be fondly remembered as he begins a new innings in his public life," he said in the post. The Congress leadership believes that Siddaramaiah's decision to resign in accordance with Rahul Gandhi's wishes, followed by his meeting with the party chief along with his son, Yathindra, has paved the way for a smooth transition of power in Karnataka.

The party insiders were initially concerned about possible high drama, as several Siddaramaiah loyalists had sought his approval for a signature campaign to demonstrate strength.

The party is now relieved after Siddaramaiah firmly reiterated his commitment to secularism and the protection of constitutional values following his resignation as chief minister.

The veteran leader's clear stance has effectively put to rest speculation that the BJP might attempt to capitalise on his removal to woo Kuruba voters amid initial concerns within the party about potential political realignment, especially given Siddaramaiah's strong influence among the Kuruba community

Beyond budget-making and administrative mastery, Siddaramaiah has been widely recognised as a fierce champion of social justice and empowerment, an uncompromising defender of secular values, and a strong advocate of rationality and scientific temper, Jairam posted on X.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with party leader Siddaramaiah during a meeting, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI PHOTO

Satish positions himself as next Ahinda leader

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former minister Satish Jarkiholi on Friday said he would bear the Ahinda flag following Siddaramaiah's resignation as the chief minister.

"I'll try to fill Siddaramaiah's shoes. Someone must bear the Ahinda flag. The system in Karnataka is such that an Ahinda leader gets born," Satish, who belongs to the Valmiki (ST) community, said during a chat with reporters.

Satish Jarkiholi

Siddaramaiah is widely credited with consolidating the Ahinda - a political coalition comprising of minorities, backward classes and Dalits - and Satish has been a part of this effort that has benefitted Congress. "Ahinda comprises 500 castes and it's important to keep their confidence intact," Satish said.

Party president

Satish confirmed having received a phone call from Congress general secretary K C Venugopal to discuss his prospects of becoming the next party president in Karnataka. "Yes, discussions are on," he said.

It is said that Satish wants to be both party president and a minister, citing Chief Minister-designate DK Shivakumar's example. Shivakumar was the deputy chief minister as well as Karnataka Congress president. Asked about this, Satish said: "The party has to decide. I've left this to Siddaramaiah to discuss with the party."

Kuruba for KPCC?

There is buzz that the Congress high command has received a complaint against Satish, accusing him of engineering a signature campaign against Siddaramaiah's continuation as the CM. This could scuttle Satish's prospects.

Satish denied this. "There was no signature campaign. Even if 37 MLAs signed, what about the remaining 100? What was their opinion? This is being circulated on WhatsApp mischievously," he said. Meanwhile, speculation is rife that senior Congress leader H M Revanna, a Kuruba and a Siddaramaiah loyalist, is being pushed as a contender for the Karnataka Congress president's post.

SINGULARLY STICKLER

Siddaramaiah: Duty through personal loss

L K ATHEEQ

With the resignation of Shri Siddaramaiah as Chief Minister on May 28, an important chapter in Karnataka's politico-administrative history comes to a close. He has said he will remain politically active, but his departure from office nevertheless marks the end of an era.

I had the privilege of serving as his Principal Secretary and also as state's Finance Secretary with him as the Finance Minister. Much has been written about his remarkable journey from a modest background to becoming Karnataka's longest-serving chief minister, his political acumen and his astonishing memory for facts and figures. Rather than revisit those well-known attributes, I would like to share a few personal memories that reveal the resilience, composure and sense of purpose that defined him.

One incident remains etched in my memory.

In July 2016, Siddaramaiah received the distressing news that his son, Rakesh, had been seriously injured and admitted to a hospital in Antwerp, Belgium. The chief minister immediately prepared to leave, and I accompanied him. A few hours before our departure, however, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy arrived at Kaveri, along with leaders of the striking KSRTC employees' union. Negotiations had reached a deadlock.

I was present during the discussions. They were long and, at times, tense. Yet Siddaramaiah remained calm and composed. Not once did he betray the anxiety that any father would naturally feel upon hearing such alarming news. After prolonged negotiations, an agreement was reached and the strike was averted. Only then did he leave for the airport.

In Antwerp, he displayed the same stoicism. Every day we visited the hospital, where Rakesh lay in a coma. Yet even in those painful circumstances, he remained attentive to his responsibilities.

Two days into our stay, Bengaluru experienced heavy rains, with large lakes overflowing and parts of the city flooded. Siddaramaiah immediately asked me to arrange a video conference with Bengaluru Development Minister K J George and senior BBMP officials. From a hotel room in Antwerp, while his son remained critically ill, he conducted a detailed review and issued instructions. His demeanour throughout was calm, focused and decisive. The tragedy that followed is well known. On a Saturday morning, we received the heartbreaking news that Rakesh had passed away.

Outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Antwerp, Belgium.

The chief minister was anxious to immediately return to Mysuru with his son's mortal remains. A special aircraft was offered, but after discussion it was decided that we would travel on a commercial flight, even if it meant a delay. Siddaramaiah readily agreed.

What followed was a logistical challenge. It was the weekend, and securing the release of the body and completing the necessary formalities was far from easy. The Indian Ambassador to Belgium provided invaluable assistance. Then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj personally called the chief minister to convey her condolences and assure support. R V Deshpande connected me with Naresh Goyal, Chairman of Jet Airways, who deputed a senior executive from Amsterdam to help us complete the arrangements.

The experience revealed not only the personal tragedy faced by Siddaramaiah but also the dignity with which he bore it.

What impressed me even more was what happened afterwards. Following a brief period of mourning, he returned to office and immersed himself in governance. The next two years saw an energetic and determined chief minister pushing forward an ambitious agenda of welfare and development. Personal grief never diminished his commitment to public duty.

Another aspect of Siddaramaiah that deserves mention is the seriousness with which he approached the annual budget. He would meticulously review departmental proposals, debate policy choices and personally examine every major announcement.

Budget speeches were not mere political documents for him. He would read drafts line by line, often more than once, making corrections and suggesting improvements. His central concern was always whether a proposal would make a meaningful difference in the lives of marginalised and underprivileged communities.

During these discussions, he frequently recalled representations he had received from citizens and legislators and would ask officials whether those concerns could be accommodated. He also insisted on reviewing the Congress manifesto to assess which commitments had been fulfilled and which could be included in the forthcoming budget.

His memory for numbers was legendary. Finance Secretary ISN Prasad would often joke: "Sir, we don't like you. When we give you approximate figures, you remind us of the exact numbers—even down to the decimals." Siddaramaiah would laugh and take such remarks in good humour. Beneath his stern public persona was a dry wit that colleagues came to appreciate.

Above all, Siddaramaiah possessed remarkable mental clarity and an unwavering commitment to social justice. He often illustrated it through a simple analogy from rural life. When drawing water from a village well, he would say, the surface is often covered with weeds, leaves and floating debris. You push them aside with your pot to create a patch of clear water and fill it. But after some time the debris drifts back and covers the surface again.

The lesson, he would explain, is that temporary interventions may provide temporary relief, but unless the underlying structures that create inequality and exclusion are addressed, old patterns inevitably return. Just as the debris returns to the surface of the well, social and economic inequities reappear unless they are tackled through lasting structural change.

It was a privilege to work with Siddaramaiah. I saw at close quarters a leader of exceptional memory, formidable administrative ability and uncommon resilience.

(The writer is a former civil servant)

NCP splits in Kerala over NDA leanings

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Kerala, with allegiance to the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar), has split, accusing the national leadership of moving closer to the NDA.

A faction led by former minister AK Saseendran and former MLA Thomas K Thomas has decided to remain with the Left Democratic Front.

At a meeting in Kochi on Friday, the rebel group decided to form a new party titled NCP (Secular). The faction also claims the support of several state-level office bearers.

Differences within the party over the national leadership's lenience towards the NDA deepened after its recent decision to appoint PM Suresh Babu as state president, replacing Thomas. Babu is a close confidant of senior leader PC Chacko.

The rebel faction maintains that the state leadership was not consulted before the appointment of the new president.

MVA finalises seat-sharing deal for 15 MLC seats

MUMBAI, DHNS: Moving ahead on the vexed issue of seat sharing for the Maharashtra Legislative Council elections from local authorities, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) reached a consensus on 15 of the 17 seats.

The Congress will contest eight seats, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) six and Sharad Pawar-headed NCP (SP) three. The opposition coalition could not decide on the Nashik and Nanded seats.

The Congress will contest Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Bhandara, Amravati, Ahilyanagar, Solapur, Dharashiv and Nagpur, where a byelection is being held.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) will contest Raigad, Jalgaon, Parbhani-Hingoli, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. The NCP (SP) will contest Pune, Thane and Sangli-Satara.

Build 30-day LPG reserves: Govt to OMCs

90% of imports are routed through Strait of Hormuz

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

GAS WOES

- Over 33 crore Indian households use LPG as cooking fuel
- India currently has no strategic reserves for LPG or LNG
- India meets about 60% of its LPG consumption needs through imports

With the West Asia conflict squeezing fuel supply, the Central government has asked public-sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) — Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum — to create additional LPG reserves equivalent to at least 30 days of demand, beyond their regular commercial stocks.

"OMCs have been asked to work out [such that] they have a minimum of 30 days for reserves for LPG, and they are working on it," Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma told reporters on Friday. She added that the OMCs had also been directed to expand crude-oil reserves.

LPG, which over 33 crore Indian households use as cooking fuel, has been the hardest-hit energy segment due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia and the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

India currently has no strategic reserves for LPG or LNG, unlike its strategic petroleum reserves for crude oil.

India meets about 60% of its LPG consumption needs through imports. Roughly 90% of those imports are traditionally routed through the Strait of Hormuz — translating to around 54% of total LPG consumption.

That chokepoint has also accounted for 55-60% of LNG imports and about 40% of crude oil shipments.

Before the conflict, India's LPG consumption averaged about 90,000 tonnes per day. Following the disruption and seasonal factors, it has fallen to 72,000 tonnes.

Domestic refineries are producing 50,000-52,000 tonnes per day — covering around 70% of needs, up from 40% before the war.

Domestic production has been maximised to offset import shortfalls, while OMCs are sourcing cargo from alternative regions, including the US, Australia, and Russia.

Govt may expand BSF's operational mandate: Shah

Security force currently guards Pak & B'desh border

BHUJ, PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that the government was considering expansion of the BSF's operational mandate by assigning it new sectors, and announced that a new paradigm of "territorial security" will be added to complement conventional border security.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visits the Harami Nala area, along the India-Pakistan border, in Gujarat on Friday. PTI

Addressing BSF personnel on a visit to Gujarat's Kutch district to review border security, he also said the ongoing work to secure the vulnerable sections of the Harami Nala and Sir Creek areas along the border with Pakistan was almost 70% complete.

The Union government has decided to transform the BSF's concept of border security, he said. The BSF currently guards India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"When I assumed office as the country's Home Minister, during my first review of the BSF's operations, the Harami Nala and Sir Creek areas appeared somewhat lacking in terms of security preparedness," Shah said.

On security grid

The government formulated an action plan aimed at establishing a "leak-proof" security grid in every respect, with the measures ranging from construction of watchtowers and connecting roads to the provision of drinking water, medical services, residential facilities, and new fencing, he said.

"I can state that approximately 70% of this work has now been completed. It gives the Ministry of Home Affairs and me immense satisfaction to know that within the next two years, this vulnerable sector will be permanently secured against the malevolent gaze of the enemy," the Union minister said.

The government has decided to mark the 60th year of the BSF by completely transforming its concept of border security, the Union home minister said.

'Metro Man' pushes for alternative to SilverLine

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As the Congress-led UDF government in Kerala scrapped the SilverLine high-speed rail project, "Metro Man" E Sreedharan is trying to take forward his alternative high-speed rail plan, which he claims has only minimal environmental impact and causes very little displacement of people.

He met Chief Minister V D Satheesan on Friday and submitted the project report.

The former managing director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation had pushed the alternative earlier as well, after the SilverLine project — the previous CPM-led regime's flagship initiative — faced stiff objections owing to the mass displacement of people required for it, as well as the environmental hazards it posed.

E Sreedharan meets Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sreedharan had proposed a fresh alignment with more stations. As per his plan, the rail line would be mostly elevated or underground. Hence, the displacement of people and the land requirements could be minimised.

While scrapping the SilverLine project, Chief Minister V D Satheesan had said that his government would consider an environment-friendly alternative that provided high-speed transportation across the state.

The 530-kilometre SilverLine project aimed at reducing travel time between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod by around four hours.

In J&K, business emerges as strongest voice for peace

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

ON THE GROUND

- Many now believe prosperity depends more on uninterrupted commerce than politics
- Shift comes amid economic activity linked to tourism, retail trade, transport, horticulture

For decades, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)'s politics revolved around competing ideologies, separatist sentiment and the promises of mainstream parties.

But in a Valley now seeing expanding trade, rising entrepreneurship, and growing commercial activity, a new and perhaps more influential constituency for peace is emerging — ordinary Kashmiris whose livelihoods increasingly depend on stability and economic growth.

Many traders, business owners, and young entrepreneurs now believe survival and prosperity depend less on political rhetoric and more on uninterrupted commerce, investment, and integration with India's wider economy.

The shift comes amid unprecedented economic activity linked to tourism, retail trade, transport, horticulture, and services.

Official figures presented in the J&K Assembly earlier this year showed that Kashmir received nearly 35 lakh tourists in 2024, the highest recorded in the Valley.

The change is visible across Kashmir's markets, industrial clusters and commercial hubs. From Srinagar's Lal Chowk to wholesale fruit traders, transporters, hoteliers, and online businesses, economic activity is increasingly tied to stability.

"Earlier, shutdowns and disruptions were seen largely through a political lens. Now, people immediately calculate the economic cost — cancelled hotel bookings, unsold handicrafts, and transport and trade losses," said Srinagar-based handicrafts trader Mushtaq Ahmad. "There's far greater public anxiety whenever instability affects trade."

Stakeholders say even brief disruptions now trigger immediate concerns over financial losses. Traders point out that prolonged unrest affects not only tourism but also retail markets, transport services, fruit exports and the growing online business sector.

Record security deployment planned for Amarnath Yatra

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The Centre will deploy a record 670 companies of Central Armed Police Forces for this year's 57-day Amarnath Yatra beginning July 3, amid heightened security concerns in J&K.

Official sources said the security deployment for the annual pilgrimage has been finalised by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with the Jammu and Kashmir administration and top security agencies.

The deployment, one of the largest ever for the pilgrimage, will cover the entire yatra route from Lakhanpur on the Punjab-Jammu border to the cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, including the twin routes of Baltal and Pahalgam, base camps, highways, railway infrastructure and transit camps.

Additional CAPF companies are expected to start arriving in J&K in early June and the entire security grid is likely to be in place by June 25, around a week before the pilgrimage begins.

The army will secure key heights overlooking vulnerable stretches of the yatra routes and the cave shrine, while J&K Police will handle area domination, convoy security and local coordination, sources said. The enhanced deployment comes in the backdrop of heightened terror concerns after last year's attack near Pahalgam.

Want to bring back Tatas to Singur: Bengal BJP chief

KOLKATA, PTI: Seeking to recast the political and industrial legacy of Singur, West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya on Friday said the state government wants the Tata Group to return to the Hooghly township, describing it as both an economic necessity and a powerful signal that the state is again open for business.

Samik Bhattacharya

In an interview with PTI on the BJP government's industrial vision after the party's victory in the state, Bhattacharya said bringing the Tatas back to Singur would help erase what he called the "wrong message" sent to investors after the Nano project was forced out of the state nearly two decades ago.

"We want the Tatas to come back, and that too in Singur. We want to send a message to the entire country and the world that WB is investor-friendly and is ready to welcome investments," he said.

The remarks come at a time when the newly installed BJP government is preparing a fresh land policy that it believes will form the backbone of a renewed industrialisation drive in a state that was once India's manufacturing powerhouse but has steadily lost ground over decades.

Referring to the Nano project's exit from Singur in 2008, Bhattacharya said this had become a defining image of Bengal's hostility towards industry.

"The scene of Tata leaving Bengal and the infrastructure being dismantled sent a very wrong message, that industries were unwelcome in Bengal. ...the cut-money culture, syndicate raj and institutionalised corruption worsened the situation. We want to correct that perception," he said.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

Brief Tender Notification
(Through KPP Platform)

BESCOM invites tender in two cover system against Tender No. 1) BESCOM/2026-27/SE0464 for providing 218 numbers of temporary gangmen service to the C, O&M, sub-divisions of Davanagere circle, BESCOM. Approx Amount put to tender: Rs.27871634/-. Contract period: Six months. Tender No. 2) BESCOM/2026-27/SE0465 for providing 250 numbers of temporary gangmen service to the C, O&M, sub-divisions of Tumkur circle, BESCOM. Approx Amount put to tender: Rs.31933985/-. Contract period: Six months. Contract Period will be from the date of Contract Award through an agency. TIME SCHEDULE: a) Bid document available on e-portal: 30.05.2026 @ 17:00 hrs onwards, b) Last date for submission of queries: 10.06.2026 upto 17:00 hrs, c) Pre bid meeting: 16.06.2026 @ 11:00 hrs, d) Last date for submission of bid document: 29.06.2026 upto 17:00 hrs, e) Date and time of opening technical bid: 01.07.2026 @ 11:00 hrs. The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the KPP portal from the website https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in. E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: 9240214000 & 9240214001. E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com. Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy),
O & M Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, Zone-2
2nd Floor, BNCC (Old BBMP) Bulding, Opp to Indira Canteen,
JC Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-560006

No:BNCC-Z2/EE/HBL/PR/03/2026-27 Date:29-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Chief Commissioner BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of GBA - Bengaluru North City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl.	Name of Works
1	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Jayachamarajendra Nagara Ward No 49. **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 25000/- Category : CAT-I
2	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Dinnur Ward No 50 **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 50000/- Category : Others
3	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Manorayanapalya Ward No 51 **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 25000/- Category : SC
4	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Vishwanatha Nagenahalli Ward No 52 **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 50000/- Category : Others
5	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in RT Nagar Ward No 53 **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 50000/- Category : Others
6	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Gangenahalli Ward No 54 **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 50000/- Category : Others
7	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Ganganagar Ward No 55 **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 25000/- Category : ST
8	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Hebbal Ward No 56 **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 25000/- Category : SC
9	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Bhoopasandra Ward No 57 **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 50000/- Category : Others
10	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Nagashettyhalli Ward No 58 **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 50000/- Category : Others
11	Repairs and Maintenance of Footpaths in Geddalahalli Ward No 59 **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 25000/- Category : CAT-II(A)

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka KPPP website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under login for Contractors. **(2)** Tender Documents can be uploaded in KPP-Portal **from 01-06-2026**. **(3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **15-06-2026 up to 16:00 hours**. **(4)** Date of Opening of Tender is **16-06-2026 after 16:30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, Zone-2, BNCC

THE NANDI SAHAKARI SAKKARE KARKHANE NIYAMIT, KRISHNANAGAR
POST: HOSUR-586113 TQ : BABALESHWAR DIST:VIJAYAPUR (BIJAPUR),KARNATAKA STATE
Email:nandisugarpo@gmail.com Mob No: 9900559348/9731325005

No:NSSK/Adm/Pur/ 145/2026-27 Date: 29-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE FOR PROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES

Well trained Industrial Security Agency are required on contract basis for one year. Reputed & experienced security agencies may apply with contract price of all statutory registration ITTAN number. P.F. etc.,

Sealed tenders are invited from the registered Security Agency/ Contractors/Firms for providing Security Services required for the factory.

For tender forms and any other clarifications in this connection may contact the factory office and the interested parties may obtain tender forms on payment of prescribed tender form fees of Rs.1,180/- in Cash or RTGS in the name of Nandi Sahakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyamit payable at Vijayapur, Dist: Vijaypur (Bijapur). **Our Bank details Canara Bank Br: Hosur A/c No. 08713070000020, IFSC Code: CNRB0010871**.

Terms and Conditions; 1) Those who are getting the order they will preserve Rs. 1,00,000/- (One Lakh Rupees only) as an EMD DD of any Nationalized Bank only 2) Conditional Tender will not be considered. 3) Factory reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders in full or part without assigning any reasons. **4) Tender forms will be issued from: 30-05-2026 to 16-06-2026. (5) Last date for submission of duly filled tender form is 20-06-2026 upto 5-30 PM.** (6) Date of negotiation will be intimated separately. (7) All the authorized security agency have to provide sugar factory experience certificate with tender without fail.

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR | **Sd/-** VICE CHAIRMAN | **Sd/-** CHAIRMAN

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Divn., Athani – 591304, Tq: Athani. Dist: Belgaum (Karnataka).

No./ KNNL/HBC/PB/Consultancy-TF/TND/2026-27/595
Date: 26-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION Call-2
(Through E-Procurement only)

Percentage tenders are invited **KC 4 Basis** in **Two Cover System** for below mentioned work from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below by the undersigned.

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division Athani, invites percentage basis tender from interested, experienced and resourceful **A Valid Copy of the Registration of the firm/Company with the Register of companies** who fulfill the pre-qualification criteria for the bellow mentioned work.

The **two cover bid submission** procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system including EMD in e-cash. The first cover (Technical Bid) should contain the documents as mentioned in Para 4, The second cover shall contain the financial bid. The cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-II (financial bid) of only those bidders who have fulfill the conditions contained in Para.4 will be opened.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and can be submitted through electronic tender only

The approximate estimated cost of work is Rs. 109.96 Lakhs

1) The contractor can request for e-tendering documents From 30-05-2026 @ 10.30 AM to 06-06-2026. upto 4.00 PM 2) Last date & time for tender queries:04-06-2026 upto 4.00 PM 3) Submission of completed e-tendering document From 30-05-2026 @ 10.30 AM to 06-06-2026. upto 4.00 PM 4) Opening of Technical Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani : 08-06-2026 @ 11.00 AM 5) Opening of Financial Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani : 10-06-2026 @ 11.00 AM (Or after Approval of Technical Bid)

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on **Telephone: 08289-251034** and **H.P company helpline 080-22485867**

Sd/-.Executive Engineer,
KNNL HBC Division, Athani

DIPR/Belagavi/339/Manipal/2026-27

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಕುಂದಾಣ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು–562110.
Email: dudc_blr@yahoo.co.in, dudc.blrrural@gmail.com

ಸಂ: ಜಿನಕೋ/ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾ/ಅಮೃತ–ನ–4/ಹೊ.ನ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/01/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–05–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಅಮೃತ್ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ (ಮುನಿಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ) ಹಂತ–4ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಗಳಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಪೂರ್ವಬಾವಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಚೇತನರಿಗಾಗಿ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ಲಿಫ್ಟ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 56507/Call 2	67.50/–	57.17/–	1.35/–	27/05/2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	30/05/2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 05:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	04/06/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 05.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು KPPP Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರ್ವಬಾವಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ ಕಛೇರಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹಗೊಂಡ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ KPPP Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

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ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

DIPR/CP/VCPL/896/2026-27

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A troubling nod for electoral exclusion

The Supreme Court's verdict on the contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, designed and conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI), is disappointing because it upholds in principle and practice an undemocratic and largely exclusionary process. The Court validated almost every position and argument of the Commission, which will now consider the ruling a justification for the procedures it adopted for the revision. This is an *ex post facto* vindication of an ill-conceived process, but the ruling is not entirely surprising because the Court, even during the hearing, did not appear to question SIR's validity. It did not reject the process, even when its questions were not convincingly answered or when its suggestions were not implemented. Notably, it intervened in the West Bengal situation by appointing judicial officers and appellate tribunals to adjudicate the exclusions. Given that the Court directed the redress mechanism, it could not have faulted the process.

About 59 million names have been deleted from electoral rolls in the SIR undertaken in 13 states and UTs; elections have been held in some of these states. The ECI is set to expand the process across the country. The top court's ruling now backs its power to conduct the roll revision. The Court held that the process does not violate the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. Two conclusions of the Court stand out. One is that the right to vote is not absolute and can be subject to reasonable regulatory conditions. The other is that the ECI possesses constitutional authority to undertake a "limited enquiry into citizenship" for electoral purposes. The limitation will not constrain the ECI because it will not affect its procedures and decisions relevant to the electoral rolls. The Court said the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) would decide on citizenship if a dispute arises. It also said people excluded from the rolls could seek a judicial review of the ECI's decision. But when voters are removed from the rolls for citizenship-related or other reasons, how many can approach the MHA or the courts for redress? This alternative must also be seen in the context of the MHA's limitations in handling a large number of grievances within a deadline. By propounding these ideas, the Court has vested the ECI with powers that may be used to divest voters or citizens of their rights. By holding that inclusion in the electoral rolls may have "a presumption of validity" and that such presumption is "rebuttable," the Court has validated the exclusion of lakhs of voters. A process which should be citizen-centric will now be controlled by the ECI.

Legitimising the SIR ignores mass voter disenfranchisement. The Supreme Court's endorsement of the ECI's sweeping powers and institutional expertise risks weakening democratic accountability

Approving the objective and design of SIR, the Court held that the revision "bears a direct nexus to the constitutional goal of a free and fair election." This is selective reading. It is difficult to imagine a process that excluded lakhs of people from the rolls and denied them their voting right to promote free and fair polls. The Court also said it was convinced that "the material on record indicates that the scale of the problem" identified by the ECI was "systemic in nature, arising from cumulative inaccuracies over an extended period." It said this needed a comprehensive SIR because "such a problem does not readily admit of piecemeal solutions." However, questions remain: Why was the exercise not undertaken in most states well ahead of the elections? How did it exclude so many people? Why could corrections not be done in time?

While stating that "the process, as initially designed, did raise legitimate concerns regarding documentation, transparency, and access," the Court held that a series of judicial interventions "progressively infused the process with safeguards." However, it has upheld the ECI's powers to decide on the documentation required for inclusion. SIR held in multiple states revealed that large sections of people, especially the poor, do not have documentary evidence of identity and residence. The safeguards the Court mentioned do not exist for many. The Court said, "The post-exercise data placed on record does not disclose a level of disenfranchisement so widespread or systemic as to indicate a constitutional infirmity in the design of the exercise." There are at least 27 lakh reasons to counter this statement. The Court decided against supplanting its judgment "in matters that concern the implementation of an exercise" for which the ECI is endowed with "institutional expertise." The issue before the Court was that the ECI's expertise and authority were not properly used in the implementation of SIR. The Court was called upon to make a judgment on the matter, and it refused. This amounts to saying that the ECI's actions are right and cannot be challenged because it has institutional expertise.

The ruling emboldens the Commission, which will now implement the revision with greater assertion in the coming months. It can now dismiss complaints and criticism as baseless. The government and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will support the exercise as a legitimate action to rid India of infiltrators and illegal immigrants, though the exercise has yet to identify these elements in large numbers. The principle behind the revision of electoral rolls is credible. It is the procedures, the timing, and the ECI's conduct that raise questions. By endorsing a faulty process in the name of principle, the Supreme Court has done a disservice to the country's electoral democracy.

PRISONER'S DILEMMA

The political economy of cash transfers

The electorate's welfare demands are genuine, but lasting relief depends on productive, fiscally responsible schemes

JYOTSNA ROSARIO

India's budgetary allocation to unconditional cash transfers (UCT) rapidly increased from 0.1% of GDP in 2016 to 0.9% of GDP in 2026. Official Government of India sources and researchers caution that the explosion of cash transfers will increase the future debt burden of the Centre and the states, crowd out productive investment, and adversely affect the credit rating of government bonds. Despite official acknowledgment, the size of cash transfers and related issues are worsening. This reveals a structural political economy paradox: all parties, irrespective of ideology, are politically incentivised to expand cash transfers despite the economic risks.

Welfare promises have always been an effective election strategy in India. However, the nature of these promises changed from slogans to the distribution of foodgrain, later expanding to various consumer goods, free utilities (water and electricity), and farm loan waivers. With the Jan Dhan Accounts-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) infrastructure, the rise of competitive voter-targeted cash transfers is a predictable progression.

As cash transfer schemes proved politically effective, parties that once criticised them eventually adopted similar strategies. For example, during the 2025 West Bengal state Assembly elections, the Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme, which offered Rs 1,500/month to women, became the Trinamool Congress (TMC)'s pivotal election promise. The BJP, which coined the term "*revdi* culture" to criticise cash transfer politics, went on to promise Rs 3,000/month for women during the recent West Bengal Assembly elections. Furthermore, it offered Rs 3,000/month for unemployed youth and Rs 9,000 as annual support to farmers. After winning the 2025 Delhi Legislative Assembly elections, the BJP continued the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s free water and electricity schemes.

Four factors have made cash-transfer politics inevitable in the country. First, in an era of information overload, it is difficult for any political party to credibly communicate its welfarist achievements, and it is equally difficult for voters to track and evaluate them. Cash transfers are popular because they entail low administrative costs, are fungible, simple to communicate, and easy for voters to understand.

Second, UCT politics in India can be understood as a case of 'Prisoner's Dilemma' where each political party knows that if they all unanimously agree to campaign on governance and development instead of promising cash transfers or any other populist measure, the collective outcomes will be: healthy state finances (low fiscal risks), sustainable growth, and efficient delivery of public services. But no single party can make that choice unilaterally, without risking losing the election.

Therefore, the dominant strategy is to offer equal or more cash than the rival parties. The competitive bidding cycles are not merely a political choice but an inevitable outcome.

Third, India's electorate is frustrated by the persistent, and in several cases worsening, structural problems such as unemployment among the educated, low-quality jobs, income inequality, household financial stress, and gender-based economic and social vulnerabilities. Addressing these challenges requires long-term institutional reforms and sustained political commitment. Alternatively, cash transfer promises offer a tangible, personal, and emotional appeal to the voters. As long as a country has genuine unmet welfare needs, any welfare promise, whether cash transfer or otherwise, can always become a powerful electoral tool.

Lastly, as women participate more actively in public decision-making, parties are increasingly introducing schemes targeting them. The political traction gained by schemes such as Lakshmir Bhandar (in West Bengal), Gruha Lakshmi (in Karnataka), Subhadra Yojana (in Odisha), and Maiya Samman Yojana (in Jharkhand) is illustrative. In FY 2025-26, Rs 1.68 lakh crore (0.5% of GDP), was allocated to women-centric unconditional state cash transfers.

Balancing welfarism with efficiency

The UCT debate is often simplified into a "good versus bad" argument, leaving little room for nuanced discussions on the design, targeting, expenditure quality, and implementation of these schemes.

Welfare and redistribution of income and wealth are one of the core functions of the government. The Directive Principles of State Policy also encourage states to promote social and economic justice. Well-designed cash transfer schemes are theoretically the most efficient/least distortionary instrument of welfare and redistribution. Research also shows these schemes are effective in poverty alleviation, women's empowerment, improving educational and health outcomes, and overall living conditions. Problems arise when welfare schemes are designed merely to win elections by outbidding rivals. In their current form, UCT schemes fail to create long-term productive assets and support future revenue growth.

Fiscal sustainability of UCT is a commonly raised concern, but the decisive criterion must be expenditure quality. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha illustrate this distinction: these three mineral-rich and developmentally backward states generated substantial non-tax revenue in recent years, yet their outcomes vary. Odisha anchored its welfare expenditure to stable revenue flows, maintained lower debt, and consistently improved its SDG score from 52 in 2018 to 67 in 2024. Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh were relatively less successful in converting their resource endowment into developmental outcomes.

Punjab and Kerala are unique examples of states with high SDG scores and high fiscal stress without introducing UCT. Punjab improved its SDG score from 60 in 2018 to 76 in 2024, despite unsustainable levels of public debt (47% of GSDP). Kerala's public debt accumulated over decades as it became a frontrunner in development.

India's cash transfer explosion was driven by political competition, weakened by poor design, and sustained by accountability gaps. The solution lies in designing fiscally responsible welfare schemes anchored to measurable outcomes. The goal should be to design systems that ultimately eliminate the need for such transfers in the long run.

(The writer is an assistant professor at Vidyashilp University, Bengaluru)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Testing buoyancy in Bengaluru

Objects around us continued to float while our tempers sank

DIANA SUSHMITHA

The sink-and-float experiment had arrived at our doorstep even before we anticipated it!

It started on a naive note. My son and his neighbourhood friend spent the evening insisting that my husband and I entertain them with some classic childhood science experiments. The curious minds wanted to identify which objects sink and float after watching *Ada Twist, Scientist* on *Netflix*. After an exhausting workday, we responded with the standard adult vocabulary, stating, "Later." "Tomorrow." "Not now."

Namma Bengaluru, as always, had other plans.

Soon, we noticed water slowly seeping in through the kitchen door from the backyard. The moment we opened the back door, water came gushing in, as though Bengaluru's chaos had decided to enter our kitchen.

A broken pipe had made way for the water to flow into the kitchen and the dining room. My husband and I found ourselves literally playing sink-and-float using mops, buckets, wipers, and every cleaning tool available at home. Oh, what a sight it was! The children were awestruck, screaming, "There is a flood, there is a flood."

Objects around us continued to float while our tempers sank as we conducted the experiment for our children, with no option left. I realised Bengaluru itself has become a huge sink-and-float experiment. Of late, not only the monsoons but also summers in our Kalyaninagara only test what survives and what gives way.

In our locality, BWSSB work has turned roads into an obstacle course. Our area became notorious for damaged drainage pipes, with the water getting mixed up with the regular water supply. Trenches were dug up to replace the pipes and resolve the issue, but because they were not properly covered, the rain caused water to clog, making the lane mushy. Auto rickshaws got stuck in trenches, resident vehicles were stranded, and tree branches and garbage floated on water, forcing residents to perform acrobatics while walking and driving on the lane.

As commuters, we have mastered the skill of fluid mechanics in the city during heavy rains. Which pothole is shallow enough to cross? Which vehicle ahead is about to splash onto pedestrians? Which route to use to commute today?

Like most Bengalureans, we have learnt to improvise and carry on.

Back home, the children eventually got their sink-and-float experiment. Just not in the stainless-steel bowls they had imagined.

By evening, the floors had dried, and life resumed with suspicious normalcy. Like every Bengalurean before us, we shut the door gently, prayed the water would stay outside, and carried on.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continuity and stability are crucial for effective governance

The editorial, 'Stability must follow leadership reset' (May 29), rightly highlights the importance of political stability during periods of leadership transition. Karnataka has witnessed leadership tussles in the past. While the circumstances were different, political instability invariably carries a cost for both governance and public confidence. In a parliamentary democracy, continuity and stability are essential ingredients of effective governance. Political parties may face internal challenges, but resolving them through consensus and discipline is in the larger interest of the state and the nation. Unfortunately, the current debate has also witnessed attempts to view the issue through the prism of caste. Reducing leadership questions to caste identities risks diverting attention from the more important issues of governance, competence and public service.
A K Sugunan, Bengaluru

Kudos to TN Gen Z

I refer to the interview 'Gen Z voters are not just a force but are influencing others too' (May 29). Kudos to the Gen Z of Tamil Nadu for their expression of disappointment with Dravidian politics. Perhaps a certain standard of primary and secondary education is also reflected in their not falling for the communal agenda. With poor literacy rates, the North is susceptible to communal politics and falls prey to a divisive agenda. The secular forces in the country must get their act together to protect the idea of India with all its diversity.
Rajan Ugra, Bengaluru

Broken systems

CBSE's quick excuse that a 19-year-old hacker breached only a test website is a poor attempt to cover up its failures. This digital mess shows that the board's new computerised marking system is riddled with basic and embarrassing security flaws. This careless attitude affects real people. This year, requests from students for re-evaluation of answer sheets jumped by 308%, crossing four lakh applications. This clearly shows that students have lost trust in the system.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

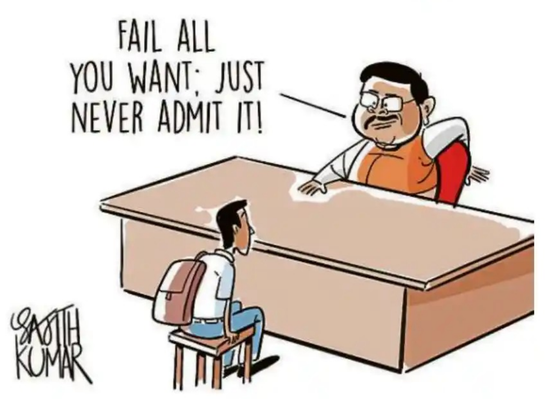
Change is always good. The same ministers create anti-incumbency issues.

Veerappa Moily, Congress leader

The visible is only a small part of the real.
Gaston Bachelard

TO BE PRECISE

'Pariksha pe charcha' with Education Minister



IN PERSPECTIVE

A quiet dimming of Old Delhi

What the Gymkhana Club's uncertainty means for institutional memory in a rapidly changing city

MOUSUMI ROY

There is something deeply melancholic about the uncertainty surrounding the Delhi Gymkhana Club. Not because one must mourn hierarchy, inherited privilege, or elite membership. Those criticisms are real, and no institution rooted in colonial urban design can escape scrutiny. What feels sadder is less political and more atmospheric: the sense that Delhi may be losing an entire mood.

For generations, the Gymkhana was not merely a club. It was part of the texture of Lutyens' Delhi: winter lawns, tennis afternoons, polished corridors, familiar servers, reservation books, and conversations that moved from politics to cricket, law to diplomacy, art to family gossip. Its rhythm was unhurried. Its elegance was restrained. It belonged to a city that still knew how to linger.

Over the decades, its membership included judges, ministers, diplomats, officers, editors, scholars, civil servants, and professional families. Yet its character did not come simply from influence. What the Gymkhana represented was continuity: the feeling that institutions could age slowly, relationships could stretch across generations, and manners, memory, and conversation still mattered. Delhi is becoming harder to find.

The capital today is wealthier, faster, louder, and more democratic than the city that produced such institutions. Its social life has expanded far beyond Lutyens' Delhi. New money, migrants, professionals, and ambitions have remade the city. This is not a tragedy. Cities must change, and Delhi certainly needs to change. Too much of its older charm was built on exclusion and inherited comfort.

But change has a cost. Old Delhi's ability to linger seems to be slipping away. The city has become more transactional, securitised, and hurried. Every institution is now asked to justify itself through efficiency, access, redevelopment, revenue, optics, or political symbolism. Some buildings need repair. Some clubs are too insular. However, when every old space is evaluated only through utility or suspicion, something intangible is lost.

The Gymkhana belonged to a Delhi that was understated rather than performative. It preserved a style of social life in which conversations unfolded slowly, people sat across tables rather than performed for screens, and recognition came from continuity rather than visibility. In an age of curated lifestyles and public display, such spaces feel almost anachronistic.

To lament their decline is not to romanticise the British Raj. That shadow exists across much of Lutyens' Delhi. Colonial architecture, clubs, cantonments, avenues, and bungalows carry histories of exclusion. But the story did not end in 1947. After Independence, Indians inhabited these spaces, altered them, argued within them, and filled them with their own memories. The architecture may have been colonial, but the life inside it became Indian.

That layered inheritance is now at risk of being flattened. The Gymkhana was not only a relic of the empire. It was also a stage on which post-Independence Delhi built part of its social grammar. The new Indian state, its bureaucracy, judiciary, armed forces, press, and diplomatic corps passed through such spaces. Friendships were made there; rivalries softened there; gossip became political intelligence. It was an ecosystem, not just an address.

Continuity and character

Of course, nostalgia must be handled carefully. Old Delhi's civility often depended on who was allowed into the room. Its grace could conceal privilege. Its restraint could become silence. Its continuity could turn into gatekeeping. But a mature city should be able to criticise exclusion without destroying memory, democratise access without erasing atmosphere, and rebuild without making every place feel manufactured.

That is the real question raised by the Gymkhana's uncertainty. Can old institutions be made more open without being stripped of all character? Can spaces marked by privilege be reformed rather than condemned? Can Delhi preserve continuity while expanding access? The answer should not lie in preserving privilege untouched, but neither should it lie in flattening every inherited space into a site for redevelopment, suspicion, or political conquest.

The sadness around the Gymkhana is not just about the possible loss of an elite club. It is about the dimming of a cultural temperament. Delhi once had conversational ease, a civility that could survive disagreement, a formality that did not need spectacle, and a belief that institutions were repositories of memory rather than assets to be managed. That world was imperfect, but it had depth.

Today's Delhi is more ambitious, with wider roads, larger fortunes, and restless energy. But it is also losing its older registers of grace. The city that once knew how to host, pause, remember, and argue with elegance is increasingly being replaced by checkpoints, demolitions, redevelopments, branding exercises, and urgent self-display.

(The author writes about politics, material culture, and economic history)

Seventy-three years after the legendary first ascent by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, Everest faces a problem of plenty

The crowded crown

MANIK BANERJEE & BARKHA KUMARI

Chinmayee Thrishulamurthy is accustomed to Bengaluru's notorious traffic congestion, but the ophthalmologist-cum-mountaineer did not expect to encounter another snarl-up at an altitude of 8,849 metres while making her final push to Mount Everest on May 20. Trapped in a slow-moving queue in the 'death zone', she and fellow mountaineer Santhosh Devarajappa waited for hours in sub-zero temperatures as precious oxygen supplies drained away.

Their experience captures a growing crisis on the highest mountain in the world. More than seven decades after Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first reached the summit in 1953, Everest is now grappling with dangerous overcrowding.

Commercial expedition operators opened Everest to a wider community. Fixed ropes, bottled oxygen and improved forecasting have reduced uncertainties, making the peak accessible to ambitious amateurs as well as elite climbers. For many, standing atop the world's highest point became a symbol of fame, recognition and personal achievement. Consequently, many climbers lacking adequate high-altitude experience and physical conditioning began attempting Everest. Chinmayee went for Everest after years of training and climbs such as Deo Tibba and UT Kangri. But she found herself sharing ropes with climbers who appeared far less experienced. "Some people were using crampons for the first time in their lives," she recalls.

A record 1,008 climbers reached the summit this season, including 274 on a single day. Ninety-five Indians were among the 494 foreigners who received permits. Two climbers – Sandeep Are and Arun Tiwari – died during descent, apparently because of extreme exhaustion. Above the South Col camp, the 'death zone' is exceptionally narrow and oxygen-starved. Climbers move along fixed ropes, often only in a single file.

The weather window is usually brief, with only a few days offering manageable winds. As climbers converge on the same opportunity, dangerous overcrowding becomes inevitable.

Chinmayee says that delays in rope-fixing reduced summit opportunities this season. "There are usually 15 to 20 summit days. We had only four or five this year, and because May 20 and 21 offered relatively calm weather, everyone headed for the summit at once," she says, adding: "We had to wait all night, much longer than usual, in a queue along the 500-metre vertical wall between the South Col and Balcony."

Colonel Rajneesh Joshi, principal of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling, says that overcrowding during the short summit weather window creates long queues near crucial sections like the Hillary Step and summit ridge. Too many climbers attempting the summit simultaneously increases waiting time, while inexperienced ones create bottlenecks. Expedition operators push large groups toward the summit to maximise business success. With many sections permitting only single-file movement, even minor delays due to exhaustion, frostbite, or oxygen problems can trigger massive congestion.

The risks are severe. Climbers remain stranded for prolonged periods above 8,000 metres with rapidly depleting oxygen supplies and energy reserves. The congestion substantially increases exposure to hypoxia, frostbite and fatal altitude-related complications, says Joshi, himself an Everest summiteer.

Experts believe the situation now demands urgent intervention. Authorities and the international climbing community must introduce stricter regulations on permit numbers and summit scheduling. Prior high-altitude mountaineering experience should become mandatory for Everest aspirants. Expedition companies must be held accountable. Better coordination between teams, staggered summit attempts, efficient rope management and stronger rescue systems are equally necessary.

"Capping permits alone will not solve the crowding problem. Stricter vetting of experience is needed," says Chinmayee, backing Nepal's proposal to require climbers to summit at least one 7,000-metre peak in the country before attempting Everest.

Malay Mukherjee, who summited Everest in 2015, advises early starts to avoid congestion.

Everest was once approached with humility, preparation and reverence. Today, commercial ambition often overshadows caution and respect for nature. A return to ethical mountaineering values is essential.

(Manik Banerjee is a veteran mountaineer and adventurer. He participated in the Indian Army's first expedition to Mt. Everest in 1985. Barkha Kumari is a journalist with Deccan Herald.)

A SNARL-UP AT THE SUMMIT

EVEREST: The Pull of the Peak

Height: **8,848.86 m (29,031.7 ft)** – the highest point on Earth

Straddles the border between **Nepal and Tibet (China)**

For many mountaineers, Everest remains the ultimate test of endurance and ambition

"Because it's there." George Mallory's famous words still best explain Everest's allure

From Conquest to Commerce:

1920s–1950s: Everest drew generations of explorers; many never returned

May 29, 1953: **Edmund Hillary** and **Tenzing Norgay** made the first confirmed ascent

1978: **Reinhold Messner** and **Peter Habeler** made the first ascent without supplemental oxygen

1996: 8 climbers died in a single storm, highlighting the mountain's dangers

2000s onward: What began as an audacious mountaineering challenge has evolved into a thriving industry supported by **commercial expedition operators, sophisticated logistics and modern climbing technology.**

Everest has been summited **13,000+** times by **7,000+** climbers by 2025

- Permit fees rose from **US$11,000 to US$15,000** in **2025**
- Typical expedition cost: **US$40,000–100,000**
- Nepal earned an estimated **US$7.4 million** in permit fees in **2026**

Weather often compresses summit bids into narrow windows

In 1996, 33–36 summit attempts in a day were considered dangerous; it rose tenfold by 2019

2024: Nepal's Supreme Court called for permit limits on Everest

Nepal's Everest permits for foreign climbers rose nearly 30%—from 381 in 2019 to a record 494 in 2026

Altogether **1,008** climbers summited Everest in the spring climbing season this year, surpassing all previous records.

274 climbers scaled Everest via Nepal on **May 20, 2026** – another record.

The previous record was set on May 22, 2019, when **223 climbers** summited via Nepal, apart from **113** others via Tibet the same day. **11 climbers died in 2019.**

Cost of Congestion

- Oxygen levels are only about one-third of those at sea level.
- Long queues increase exposure to:
  - Oxygen depletion
  - Frostbite and hypothermia
  - Altitude sickness
  - Exhaustion during wait and descent
- Congested routes can delay rescue efforts.
- **On Everest, climbers often die while waiting and descending**

The world's highest garbage dump

- **30-50 tonnes** of trash – oxygen cylinders, tents and ropes – litter Everest
- **12 tonnes** of human waste are left behind annually

Wounds of *Sagarmatha*

KALYAN RAY
DH NEWS SERVICE

This year's spring climbing season ended with over 1000 climbers successfully summiting Mount Everest, even as a conference in Kathmandu earlier this week saw mountaineers agreeing on the risks to the world's highest mountain peak amid warming temperatures and a surge in the number of climbers keen to scale the peak. Another record was set when more than 270 climbers summited through the South Col route in Nepal in a single day – May 20 – causing dangerous congestion in the 'Death Zone' above 8,000 metres.

Apart from exposing the climbers to heightened risks, the overcrowding also leads to pollution on the icy heights. An estimated 30-50 tonnes of waste, including oxygen cylinders, tents, ropes, plastics, and human waste, remain on the mountain. Climbers leave behind nearly 12 tonnes of excreta each season. Melting glaciers expose buried garbage and bodies, flagging the stress that the Himalayas face from climate change and unsustainable tourism.

The Nepal government has not conducted any carrying-capacity studies for Everest, although China has been strictly enforcing a regulatory norm of not giving more than 300 permits in a year.

In 2024, Nepal's Supreme Court ordered the government to limit permit numbers based specifically on scientific assessments of the mountain's carrying capacity and safety limitations. Despite the court order, execution has been slow, leading to continued record-breaking summit queues.

The Himalayan state is home to eight of the world's 10 tallest peaks, and climbing permits are a source of foreign exchange for the government. So, warnings are often overlooked.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development has found that the ice on Mount Everest has been thinning at an alarming rate and that the peak has been losing ice significantly since the late 1990s. The findings are based on data from a 10-metre-long ice core obtained from the South Col Glacier at an elevation of 8,020 m and meteorological observations from two of the world's highest automatic weather stations.

Scientists at the University of Plymouth have also identified the highest recorded microplastics ever found on Earth – at an altitude of more than 8,000 m, close to Mount Everest.

The samples collected on the mountain and in the valley below it revealed substantial quantities of polyester, acrylic, nylon, and polypropylene fibres. The materials are increasingly used to make the high-performance outdoor clothing commonly used by climbers, as well as the materials used in tents and climbing ropes.

Climate change threats are real, and the situation can worsen with a rise in the number of people who attempt to climb to the top of the world. The National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition in 2019 found that glaciers around Mount Everest have thinned by more than 100 metres since the 1960s and that the rate of ice mass loss has consistently accelerated over the past six decades.

It's not that the Nepal government isn't aware of the problem. At the Kathmandu conference, the country's president, Ram Chandra Paudel, said that sustainable tourism, responsible mountaineering, and conservation of the Himalayan environment were the defining challenges of the day. The question is whether the new government led by Prime Minister Balen Shah will take action to save *Sagarmatha*.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

A step closer to solving a piece in the Alzheimer's puzzle

A study has found an early marker of Alzheimer's among female mice, paving way for human trials and treatment techniques, writes Shree D N

Psychiatrist and neuropathologist Alois Alzheimer examined in 1901 a woman named Auguste Deter, plagued by insomnia, paranoia, and unwarranted suspicion. She also had severe memory problems. More than a century on, the field of Alzheimer's research has remained largely fixated on memory, ignoring other areas.

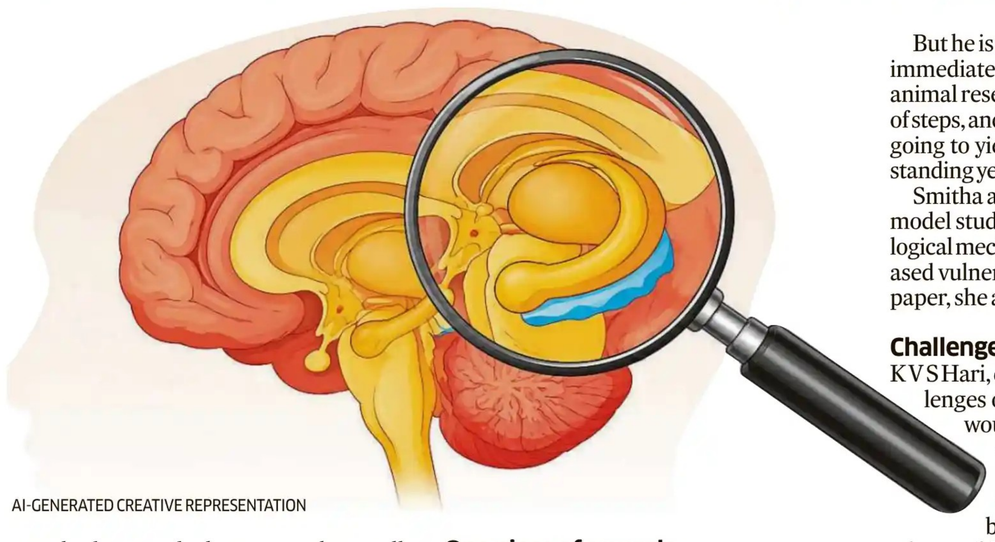
Research from the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) in Bengaluru, published in February 2026 in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, a leading journal in the field, found something new, deep in the brainstem, in a mouse model study.

Smitha Karunakaran, senior researcher who led the study at CBR, says: "Our paper focuses on the locus coeruleus — it's a tiny brainstem region which regulates attention, arousal, sleep and stress — the processes affected during the early stages of Alzheimer's."

The locus coeruleus is a cluster of roughly 50,000 neurons in the brainstem of vertebrates, from fish to humans. It governs some of the brain's most basic functions: alertness, attention, stress responsiveness, and the sleep-wake cycle.

It is also one of the earliest brain regions where the protein tangles associated with Alzheimer's disease have been reported — before the disease becomes obvious in the hippocampus, the seat of memory, and long before a patient seeks help.

"Most of the studies so far on Alzheimer's disease have focused on either the hippocampus or cortex," Smitha says.



AI-GENERATED CREATIVE REPRESENTATION

An early alarm, and a female one

Smitha's team, working with mice aged two to three months, found that the locus coeruleus neurons were still intact and that the mice were at an early amyloid-oligomer stage rather than a plaque-dominated stage — before any structural loss or any abnormal protein accumulation. The brainstem was already showing changes, specifically in female mice. The support cells surrounding the locus coeruleus, known as astrocytes, had entered what researchers call a "primed" state.

Smitha's team worked with mice aged two to three months — early enough that neurons in the locus coeruleus were still intact and no plaques had yet formed, only the precursor molecules that researchers consider more toxic. Yet the brainstem was already showing changes, specifically in female mice. The support cells surrounding the locus coeruleus, known as astrocytes, had entered what researchers call a "primed" state.

The primed state is a non-reactive state in which there is no full inflammatory response or tissue destruction yet, but the tissue is no longer fully at baseline. This is like astrocytes quietly preparing for an upcoming war.

The researchers supported this picture using both molecular assays and live proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy, which detected an astrocyte-weighted metabolic signature in the brainstem of female mice that was not present in males.

Among humans, historically, women have been disproportionately affected by Alzheimer's. "Our study points out that sex differences in Alzheimer's may begin very early, even before neurons are lost," Smitha says. "That is one of the major findings."

One piece of a puzzle

Dr Sivakumar P Thangaraju, head of the Geriatric Psychiatry Unit, Department of Psychiatry, at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, who reviewed the study, describes the female bias in Alzheimer's as a problem with multiple intersecting explanations. "The reasons could be biological, hormonal or psychosocial. There is no one single reason," he says.

He says the female brain may mask the disease longer, so by the time it becomes visible, the damage is more advanced, and the decline appears more rapid. Estrogen deficiency after menopause has long been considered a candidate risk factor. But a landmark randomised trial — the Women's Health Initiative Memory Study, published in 2003 — found that hormone replacement was associated with increased dementia risk in older women. Thus, the picture is nuanced. Genetics adds another layer.

CBR study adds its dimensions against this unclear research backdrop. "This is a well-conducted research," Sivakumar says. "It adds to some of the scientific literature already existing to give some new insights into sex differences with respect to mechanisms for increased risk for Alzheimer's disease."

But he is measured in his assessment of its immediate implications. "Translating from animal research to human research has a lot of steps, and this particular study, per se, is not going to yield a completely different understanding yet. It is just one piece of the puzzle."

Smitha agrees. "It is an early-stage mouse model study that identifies one possible biological mechanism contributing to female-biased vulnerability." A follow-up mechanistic paper, she adds, is already being written.

Challenges to navigate

K V S Hari, director of CBR, explains the challenges of a human trial. "At this stage, it would be more accurate to speak of validating these findings in human cohorts rather than human trials. The locus coeruleus can be studied in living humans using advanced MRI approaches, but it remains technically challenging because it is a very small brainstem nucleus."

"In addition, astrocyte states cannot be measured directly in living people as they can be in experimental tissue. Therefore, longitudinal cohorts that combine advanced imaging, fluid biomarkers, and clinical and cognitive follow-up will be important for testing whether similar vulnerability patterns are present in humans, including women at risk," he adds.

There was another finding in the paper with translational importance. When the female mice were exposed to an "enriched environment" — more physical objects, more social interaction, more cognitive stimulation — several of these early brainstem changes moved back toward baseline. The primed astrocytes in the locus coeruleus returned towards baseline. The noradrenergic signalling was normalised.

Smitha's team is now pursuing this in humans, in collaboration with Heidi Jacobs' lab at Harvard, by using specialised MRI sequences to image the locus coeruleus in participants from an ongoing cohort study at the CBR. She thinks that if the b-pattern can be detected in humans, it could serve as a non-invasive early marker of Alzheimer's-related vulnerability.

DID YOU KNOW?

Red dwarf stars 'eat' Earth-like planets

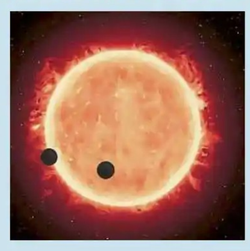
Astronomers have found some of the strongest evidence yet that stars can swallow their own planets. A new study, published in Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, supports the long-held belief that young stars are capable of "eating" nearby worlds as planetary systems form.

Researchers from Keele University and the University of Exeter studied thousands of stars and found evidence that six different red dwarfs—the smallest, coolest, and most common type of star in the universe—had engulfed Earth-like rocky planets.

What gave it away was the highly detectable chemical "fingerprint," said lead author Professor Robin Jeffries, from Keele University. "We found that a few of the red dwarf stars we studied contained lithium, a chemical element that should not be there," he said.

"Red dwarfs are smaller and cooler than our sun, but inside they are extremely hot. This heat should destroy all of their fragile lithium in nuclear reactions shortly after they form."

Because of this, there have been previous predictions that finding the presence of lithium in their atmospheres could signpost the engulfment of still lithium-rich material accreted from a surrounding planetary system.



In the new study, the researchers examined young star clusters using spectroscopic data, which involves studying how different matter interacts with electromagnetic radiation.

The Gaia-ESO Spectroscopic (GES) survey data covered thousands of stars, among which the team identified six red dwarfs in three separate clusters that had much higher lithium content than other stars of a similar spectral type.

Their analysis suggests that these stars had dramatically "swallowed" their surrounding Earth-like planets, or about 3 to 10 Earth masses of planetary material in total, thereby providing a fresh burst of lithium to their otherwise lithium-depleted atmospheres.

These engulfment events have long been theorised as possible, even probable, outcomes during early planetary system formation, and may even have occurred earlier in our own solar system.

If this explanation proves correct, a new window will have been opened into the early lives of planetary systems, allowing the quantity and timing of planetary engulfment to be investigated.

Unlike isolated stars, those found in clusters have well-understood ages and masses, and the presence of many similar siblings, born from the same initial material, means even small chemical abundance differences are easier to establish, the researchers said.

- Phys.org

Learn from UPSC on conducting leak-proof exams: SC to NTA

Expresses serious concern over 'ad-hoc' nature of agency

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday said the National Testing Agency (NTA) needs to learn from other bodies like the UPSC, which conduct large-scale competitive exams without any paper leak.

The top court was hearing pleas regarding the cancellation of the NEET-UG examination in view of a paper leak.

Even as the Centre claimed the government was treating the matter with utmost seriousness and the prime minister was personally supervising it, a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe expressed serious concern over the "ad-hoc" nature of the NTA.

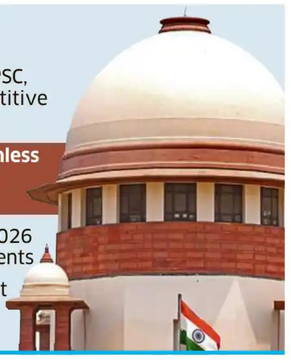
The court cautioned that recurring problems in conducting major examinations would persist unless clear individual and institutional accountability is established.

Hearing petitions seeking to disband the NTA, the bench observed that the agency must learn from institutions like the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which has conducted large-scale exams for decades without leaks.

"The real problem won't stop till actual accountability arises... Unless you identify the specific duty bearers, it will be difficult," the bench said, adding that the issue of ad-hoc institutions was a wider phenomenon across the country.

Observations

- Learn from other bodies like UPSC, which conduct large-scale competitive exams without paper leak
- **SC says problems will persist unless clear individual and institutional accountability is established**
- Says cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 was "traumatic" for lakhs of students
- Suggests setting up a permanent monitoring mechanism with leading institutions



"It is not the individual who has the capability but the institution," the bench underscored.

The court directed the Union government to file an affidavit detailing how an "institutional memory of continuity" could be built by employing specialised personnel, enabling the NTA to conduct examinations reliably in the future.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said a comprehensive review of the entire examination chain — from printing to delivery of question papers — had been carried out, and fresh vulnerabilities were being addressed.

"The Hon'ble PM is personally supervising it," the Solicitor General submitted, while cautioning that certain security measures could not be placed in the public domain.

The court described the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 as "traumatic" for lakhs of students who had invested years of effort.

The bench suggested setting up a permanent small monitoring mechanism in collaboration with leading universities and institutions, including IITs, to continuously evaluate and strengthen the system, especially with evolving technologies like AI.

Parl panel suggests computer-based test like IIT-JEE

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A parliamentary panel has questioned the need for an exam body like the National Testing Agency (NTA) if high-profile exams such as the medical entrance test NEET-UG continue to face paper leaks, and is exploring the possibility of adopting a computer-based system like the IIT-JEE, the engineering entrance test.

The panel, headed by AIADMK Rajya Sabha MP M Thambidurai, asked the NTA how it was fulfilling its mandate given repeated complaints in consecutive years. In 2024, the conduct of NEET-UG was marred by allegations of leaks, which the agency denied. This year's exam, held on May 3, had to be cancelled after the question paper was leaked, with a retest scheduled for June 21.

During the meeting, the panel discussed the possibility of shifting to a computer-based entrance exam, similar to the IIT-JEE, another high-profile test conducted by the NTA that uses multiple-choice questions in a Computer-Based Test (CBT) format.

On Friday, the Committee on Government Assurances summoned NTA chairperson Pradeep Joshi and DG Abhishek Singh. It also summoned higher education secretary Vineet Joshi, CBI Director Praveen Sood, health ministry secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, and National Medical Commission chairman Abhijat Chandrakant Sheth.

Singh gave a presentation on the exams, and panel members told government officials that the timing of medical entrances must not be affected and the number of seats should remain unchanged.

The NTA and Education Ministry officials have also been summoned next week by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education.

Under intense Opposition pressure, reports suggest the Prime Minister's Office is personally monitoring the conduct of the exams.

SC refuses Cobrapost's plea against Ambani's defamation suit

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to interfere with a trial court order that allowed industrialist Anil Ambani to withdraw his defamation suit against news portal Cobrapost and file a fresh one on the same cause of action.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi said that the petitioner had alternate remedies available under civil law and refused to entertain the plea.

Anil Ambani

Counsel for Cobrapost argued that the trial court had granted liberty to file a fresh suit without hearing the portal, even though such permission under Order XXIII of the Code of Civil Procedure is available only in limited circumstances.

"He has been granted liberty to file a fresh suit on the same cause of action. Under the rules, there are only two conditions under which this can be granted, and I have a right of hearing," the counsel submitted.

The bench, however, noted that Cobrapost's application seeking recall of the trial court's order was already pending before the High Court.

When the portal's counsel expressed apprehension that a fresh suit could render its challenge infructuous, the bench pointed out that Cobrapost could raise objections regarding maintainability once the new suit is filed and notice is issued.

It, however, granted liberty to Cobrapost to approach the HC for expeditious disposal of the matter.

The case relates to Cobrapost's reports alleging that companies linked to Anil Ambani had committed a fraud exceeding Rs 41,000 crore.

SC issues binding directions to HCs on delays

Asks to deliver judgment in 3 months of reserving order

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday issued a comprehensive set of binding directions to all high courts to curb delays in pronouncing judgments after hearings have been reserved.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed that high courts should endeavour to deliver reasoned judgments within three months of reserving them.

Emphasising greater urgency in matters of personal liberty, the SC said bail applications should be heard and orders preferably pronounced and uploaded the same day. If reserved, such orders must be pronounced the next day and uploaded on the HC website.

The guidelines stipulate that if a bench fails to deliver a reserved judgment within four months, parties can approach the chief justice of the high court to withdraw the matter and assign it to another bench, the SC said.

In cases where only the operative part of the judgment is pronounced, the detailed reasoned order must be uploaded within 15 days. Reasoned judgments delivered in open court should be uploaded on the HC website within 24 hours.

SPEEDY JUSTICE

- SC sets timelines for bail, reserved orders
- Bail orders to be preferably pronounced and uploaded same day
- If judgment not delivered within 4 months, parties may seek reassignment
- Bail and sentence suspension orders to reach jail authorities immediately

The apex court further directed that orders granting bail or suspension of sentence must be communicated immediately to jail authorities, with undertrials or convicts preferably released on the same day or the next day, unless they are wanted in other cases or have not fulfilled bail conditions.

The court stressed that in order to ensure accountability, the chief justice of every high court must put in place a system for monthly automated emails, highlighting reserved cases pending beyond stipulated periods.

The directions were issued while dealing with a petition concerning prolonged delays by the Jharkhand High Court in pronouncing judgments in criminal appeals reserved in 2022.

Death penalty only if life term option ruled out: Top court

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has ruled that the death penalty can be imposed only when the alternative of life imprisonment is "unquestionably foreclosed", stressing the need for a careful balancing of aggravating and mitigating factors with equal regard for the crime, the criminal's background and reformative potential.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Vijay Bishnoi made the observation while commuting the death sentence of a man convicted of the double murder of his former employer and a supervisor in Uttarakhand.

In cases falling short of the "rarest of rare" category, where ordinary life imprisonment subject to remission may appear inadequate, courts can impose a fixed-term life sentence without remission to ensure punishment proportionate to the crime.

The bench was hearing an appeal by Shahjad Ali alias Ali Ur Rehman against the Uttarakhand High Court's 2018 judgment upholding his death sentence for the murders of motorcycle showroom owner Sanjay Kumar Guleria and supervisor Lalitha at Selakui on February 10, 2011.

Ali, a head mechanic who was dismissed following a complaint by Lalitha, had repeatedly sought re-employment but was turned down by Guleria. He stabbed Guleria in the neck at the showroom, chased Lalitha as she tried to escape, and killed her with multiple knife blows. He then set the showroom ablaze.

The court found the prosecution's case fully established through unimpeachable eyewitness testimony and upheld the conviction. However, on the question of sentence, it highlighted significant mitigating circumstances.

Ali belonged to the lower strata of society and had lost his sole source of livelihood. His repeated pleas for reinstatement were rejected.

In its May 6 judgment, the bench said, "There is no material on record establishing that the appellant poses a threat to society or is incapable of reformation and rehabilitation." It commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment for a fixed term of 25 years without remission.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi with Andhra Pradesh party chief YS Sharmila in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Sharmila meets Rahul amid Rajya Sabha seat buzz

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh Congress president Y S Sharmila on Friday met Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge here, amid speculation that she might be fielded in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.

There was no official word about what transpired in the meetings. However, Sharmila told reporters after the meeting with Rahul that it was a "regular meeting on Andhra Pradesh's political affairs". She did not, however, deny that she was keen on a seat in the Upper House.

Asked about a possible Rajya Sabha nomination, she said, "I am very sure that Rahul Gandhi knows best."

The Sharmila camp is confident that the Congress high command would choose her to fight from Karnataka, where the party can win three of the four seats up for grabs.

CBSE postpones launch of re-evaluation site to June 1

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has postponed the launch of its portal for verification and re-evaluation of Class 12 answer sheets, pushing the date from May 29 to June 1.

In a statement issued on Friday, the board said the decision was taken to ensure a "transparent and glitch-free process" for students applying for post-result activities.

"In order to ensure a transparent and glitch-free process for verification and re-evaluation of answer books of students who intend to submit their applications on the Post-Result Activities portal, it has been decided that the designated portal will now be operational from June 1," the CBSE said.

Rahul questions contract process for CBSE evaluation website

NEW DELHI, DHNS: As the Union government told the Supreme Court that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was personally monitoring the NEET(UG) paper leak issue, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday shot back.

Tagging a news report on the Centre's submission in the SC, he posted on X, "PM Modi also personally supervised the NEET paper leak."

Separately, he asked whether the On-Screen Marking (OSM) contract to Coempt Edu Teck from the CBSE was given "honestly". He claimed that the CBSE called for OSM tenders thrice: there were zero bids the first time, and no bidder qualified the second time. Finally, he alleged, the technical bar was lowered until Coempt Edu Teck "could clear it".

Referring to a news report, he said, "Scanning resolution cut. Robotic scanner requirement dropped. ...TCS, India's biggest IT services company, qualified in the third round too. TCS lost. Coempt - a company with a spectacular track record of failure – won."

RAHUL GANDHI
Leader of the Opposition

"CBSE called for OSM tenders thrice. Zero bids the first time. No qualified bidder the second time. And finally, the technical bar was lowered until COEMPT could clear it.

He added, "And what are CBSE students complaining about today? Badly scanned answer sheets. Missing pages. A broken evaluation portal. Teachers had warned CBSE that the OSM system needed at least a year or two for further preparation before nationwide implementation, yet it was rushed through. So I ask again – who wanted Coempt to win?"

The Congress leader said the education minister and the CBSE said "due process was followed", but that was "not an answer, as the question was whether the contract was "honestly awarded to the best company" that could do the job correctly.

CBSE under fire over OSM videos

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The CBSE has come under fresh scrutiny after reports emerged that school principals were asked to record and circulate videos defending the board's controversial On-Screen Marking (OSM) system for Class 12 board exams.

According to reports, CBSE regional offices circulated "material for principals" that included suggested talking points and scripts asking school heads to reassure students and parents about the digital evaluation system. Several videos posted online used nearly identical language, describing OSM as "transparent", "accurate", "faster" and "technology-driven".

Fact news checker Mohammad Zubair tweeted the videos of several principals. There were also reports of students being asked to make such videos.

Cannot continue insulting bride & her family: SC in dowry death case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday came down heavily on the normalisation of dowry harassment, asking why boys marry girls only to insult them and their families.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan made the strong observations while dismissing an appeal by the husband's younger brother, who was convicted in a dowry death case involving the suicide of a woman by hanging at her matrimonial home in Chhattisgarh.

JUSTICE NAGARATHNA

"Why do boys marry girls and then insult them and their families? Let a message go out that they cannot continue insulting the bride and her family.

"Why do boys marry girls and then insult them and their families? Let a message go out that they cannot continue insulting the bride and her family," Justice Nagarathna remarked.

The bench highlighted the disturbing pattern of financial pressure and harassment in matrimonial homes.

"The attempt is to squeeze the bride and her family," Justice Nagarathna observed, adding that the girl's family was pleading to save their daughter but was instead branded as "beggars" who could not pay.

Justice Bhuyan expressed concern over such behaviour persisting even among educated families. "These are educated people," he noted.

The case dates back to 2010 when the woman died by suicide within three years of marriage. The prosecution alleged mental and physical harassment by her husband and in-laws over dowry demands, including cash and a car.

The trial court convicted the accused, a finding upheld by the Chhattisgarh High Court.

RELIEF PERIOD

Kerala govt plans menstrual leave in schools

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The maiden policy address of the V D Satheesan-led Congress government in Kerala announced a slew of welfare measures for women, including a plan to introduce three-day monthly menstrual leave for school students, equal pay for women in workplaces and six months of maternity leave for women in the unorganised sector.

While the previous CPM government in Kerala had implemented menstrual leave at the college and university levels, the Congress government is now planning to extend it to schools. The policy address said weekend catch-up classes would be organised to ensure that students did not miss lessons due to menstrual leave.

First such initiative

The plan to introduce menstrual leave at school level, which is believed to be the first such initiative by any state in India, is generally welcomed by women.

"I consider it a welcome move. Even as some sections cite that so far women did not get such reliefs, the difficulties faced by the present generation girls during menstruation seem to be more severe compared to that by girls during the earlier days. It could be due to lifestyle changes," said former member of the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights advocate J Sandhya.

Apart from Kerala several other states had earlier introduced menstrual leave at college and university levels. Bihar became a pioneer by introducing two consecutive days of paid leave for women government employees in 1992.

Besides, the policy address announced an AI mission and a Kerala Emerging Technologies Mission. The UDF government also proposed appointing a commission to revise existing land laws.

Kerala CM dismisses CPM charges about ED raids on Vijayan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan dismissed the CPM's allegation that Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids at the houses of his predecessor and Opposition leader Pinarayi Vijayan were part of a Congress-BJP deal.

VD Satheesan

Satheesan also ridiculed claims that the raids were planned during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi a day before the searches. "It looks like a joke to hear senior CPM leaders say the ED raided Vijayan's house at my request to the PM. Do they think that the moment I tell the PM Vijayan's house should be raided, he will immediately call up officials and order it because the new chief minister of Kerala wished so?" Satheesan wondered.

Denying criticism of police lapses in providing security to ED officials, Satheesan said adequate personnel had been deployed at the raid sites. He also noted that the ED's action was not based on any fresh case but on an ongoing investigation.

Mega projects in Arunachal leading to rising human-elephant conflicts: Study

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

From mega hydropower projects to expansion of highways and rapid change in the pattern of land use and human settlements, Arunachal Pradesh has seen all of these in the past couple of decades.

This sudden push towards revamping infrastructure in the country's eastern frontier state has seriously disturbed the habitats of Asian elephants—the most threatened elephant species globally — leading to increasing incidents of human-elephant conflicts.

A first-ever comprehensive study on Managing Human Elephant Conflicts in Arunachal Pradesh has revealed that the state has registered 1,503 cases of human-elephant conflicts between 2007 and 2024, 91% of which resulted in crop loss and 2% in human casualties.

More than 80% of such incidents were reported in the past 10 years, between 2014 and 2024. Such conflicts have also led to the death of 17 elephants in six years (2018-2024), all due to electrocution and at least three human casualties every year.

The disturbance caused by infrastructure projects seems to have led to a 78% rise in the distribution pattern of elephants, from 7,001 sq km in 2019 to 12,446 sq km in 2024.

"The evidence of increasing distributional range of elephants in Arunachal Pradesh could signify changes in the interface between people and elephants. The indirect evidence of elephant presence collected by the forest department indicates that the elephant range in the state extends beyond the protected areas," said the report prepared by World Wide Fund for Nature-India and Arunachal Pradesh forest department, which was released on May 25.

Even as the Centre is fast-tracking several mega hydropower projects, environmentalists have been warning about the adverse impact of such projects on the state's ecology.

Progress Paradox

30,000
Asian elephant population in India (60% OF GLOBAL POPULATION)

Elephant habitats: 12,000 sq kms spread across 17 districts

Human-elephant conflicts: 1,503 (2007-2024), 80% between 2014-2024

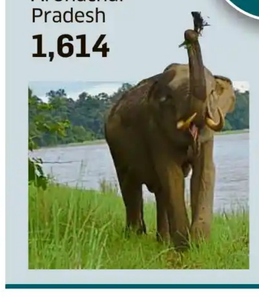
Elephant deaths: 17 (2018-2024)

Arunachal Pradesh
1,614

Crop loss in 91% of conflicts

Human deaths: Three deaths per year

Hotspots of conflicts: Pakke Kessang, Papum Pare, East Siang, Lohit, Changlang, and Tirap districts



Change in land use (2018-2023)

- Human settlements in the conflict hotpots increased between 30% and 87%
- Agricultural land decreased between 13% and 49%
- Barren land decreased between 35% and 87%

Prepare for below-normal monsoon: Centre to states

Experts warn of stress from weather as well as economy

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday called upon state governments to prepare for potential low rainfall and challenging weather conditions due to the El Nino threat and the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s forecast of a below-normal southwest monsoon this year.

Speaking to reporters on the concluding day of the National Agriculture Conference-Kharif Campaign 2026, Chouhan said the Union Agriculture Ministry was actively developing contingency plans to tackle any adverse situation.

El Nino, characterised by unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, typically weakens the Indian monsoon and can lead to drought in several parts.

Government assurance

Seed stocks currently stands **at 192 lakh quintals** against a total **demand of 173 lakh quintals**

The National Seed Corporation to maintain a buffer stock of 1.74 lakh quintals for emergency requirements

Current stock of fertiliser is at 200 lakh tonnes against a Kharif demand of 390 lakh tonnes

"The ripple effects could make inflation harder to manage and increase stress on the economy.

AARTI KHOSLA
Climate Trends Founder and Director

The IMD on Friday forecast that the June-September southwest monsoon rainfall over India was likely to be 90% of the Long Period Average (LPA), with a model error of 4%, indicating below-normal rain.

Against a total demand of 173 lakh quintals of seeds, current stocks stood at 192 lakh quintals, said the minister. He directed states to lift these seeds promptly and distribute them to farmers on time.

Additionally, the National Seed Corporation will reportedly maintain a buffer stock of 1.74 lakh quintals to address emergency requirements.

On fertilisers, current stocks are at 200 lakh tonnes against a Kharif demand of 390 lakh tonnes, he said.

Experts weigh in

Experts, however, warn that the concern about the El Nino is not only the seasonal rainfall total but also its distribution.

Longer dry spells, erratic showers, and frequent break-monsoon conditions could disrupt Kharif sowing and reduce crop productivity.

"We can expect a patchy distribution with longer break-monsoon conditions," said Professor Raghu Murtugudde of IIT Kanpur and the University of Maryland.

(With inputs from Mrityunjay Bose)

15 die in Pune hooch tragedy; 8 arrested

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

At least 15 persons have died in the last three days while some are battling for life after consuming methanol-laced spurious liquor in Pune, triggering widespread panic in Maharashtra's cultural capital.

The Pune police and Maharashtra government have put the toll at 14-15. However, the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi claimed that 18 people have lost their lives in the past three days.

While five people died on Wednesday, seven on Thursday and the remaining three deaths were reported on Friday. At least three persons are in critical condition.

So far, eight people have been arrested including the bootlegger and illicit liquor joint owner.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who is also the state's Home Minister, has asked the State Excise and police commissionerates of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad to launch a crackdown and dismantle the entire ecosystem of spurious liquor.

The police and excise authorities suspect the liquor may have been laced with toxic substances, though the exact cause of death will be confirmed only after postmortem, forensic and toxicology reports are received.

The spurious liquor was allegedly brewed by Yogesh Wankhede, who is said to be involved in the illicit liquor trade and already has multiple cases registered against him. Besides, Colonel Singh Virkha, who ran the joint, too has been taken into custody.

The tragedy triggered sharp reactions from opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders, who blamed the state government for failing to curb illegal liquor trade.

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar led party workers in ransacking a liquor den in Hadapsar and visited victims' families and patients undergoing treatment at Sassoon General Hospital.

Claiming that 18 people had died in the last two days, Pawar said: "Despite repeated outcries against rampant illegal trades in the state, the government has failed to rein them in."

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut described the incident as "culpable homicide" and demanded compensation of Rs 25 lakh for the victims' families.

Pocso case: SC junks plea against bail to seer

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to stay the Allahabad High Court's order granting anticipatory bail to Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati in a case registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

A bench dismissed the plea filed by complainant Ashutosh Brahmachari, who had challenged the higf court's order. "Sorry, we are not going to interfere," the bench observed.

Ex-MLA, son named in FIR in illegal T'gana land deal case

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Cyberabad police have arrested three members of a family for allegedly fabricating government orders and attempting to illegally sell approximately 10 acres of government land in Ranga Reddy district in Telangana.

A former YSR Congress Party MLA and his son have also been mentioned in the FIR and they are absconding.

Special police teams have been deployed to arrest those accused in the case and on the run.

The arrests followed a complaint lodged on May 23 by Srinivas Reddy, Tahsildar of Gandipet Mandal, who reported that forged government orders were being circulated through WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms.

The open market price in that area is valued at more than Rs 100 crore per acre.

Truck driver killed as Manipur stir intensifies

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Unidentified miscreants shot dead a truck driver from West Bengal and injured a police person in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Friday when security forces tried to remove blockade on a stretch of NH-202 put up by Kuki protesters.

The driver, who was carrying goods from Imphal to Ukhrul, died on his seat while the cop sustained bullet injury in the ambush in Litan.

Kuki organisations said a woman protester received bullet injury on her head while several others were injured when security forces clashed and used tear gas shells targeting the nearby houses.

The area has remained tense due to sporadic incidents of violence involving the Naga and Kuki communities since February.

Condemning the incident, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh said on Friday the ambush was aimed at derailing the initiatives of the state government to restore peace and normalcy in the state.

"Ambushing goods vehicle and taking life of a driver, who plays a crucial role in ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential items across the state, is one of the most cowardly acts and intends to further aggravate the tense situation prevailing in the area," Singh said in a statement.

The chief minister said combing operations were underway in search of the assailants.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

OH, COME ON, I'VE HAD ENOUGH! GET IT TOGETHER OR I'M TURNING OFF THIS TV!!
HONEY, IF WATCHING THE OLYMPICS IS GOING TO MAKE YOU THAT UPSET, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK
IT'S NOT THE OLYMPICS THAT UPSETS ME, IT'S ALL THE COMMERCIALS

Beetle Bailey

Marvin

Hagar The Horrible

AFTER LISTENING TO PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS, I HAVE CONCLUDED IT'S BEST THAT I KEEP MOST OF THE LOOT.
THIS IS THE LAST TIME I FIGHT FOR A MARRIED VIKING BOSS!
GRR
BAH

Peanuts

THIS IS A SHORT STORY BY EDGAR ALLAN POE...
"SOME YEARS AGO, I ENGAGED PASSAGE FROM CHARLESTON TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK..."
Z
"WE WERE TO SAIL ON THE FIFTEENTH OF THE MONTH"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YHREM

PSUYO

LGANOL

RMKABE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
Today's Guest JUMBLER is JENNY CAMPBELL
creator of FLO & FRIENDS
ARE YOU OK?
I'M HUNGRY, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT I CAN EAT.
11-18
WHEN HE LOST HIS DENTURES, HE COULD ONLY SNACK ON---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Ans. here: _____ _____ (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLUSH MINCE WOBBLE CANDID
Answer: When the caveman, Alley Oop, gets hungry, he makes himself a — CLUB SANDWICH

◆ SU-DO-KU-6919 ◆

		7		8		9		
6	9		4					8
5	8		3			4	6	
	5	9			8			6
2								4
7			5			8	3	
	4	5			2		8	3
9					5		4	2
		3		1		7		

easy

SOLUTION TO 6918

4	2	5	8	6	3	7	9	1
6	8	9	1	7	4	2	5	3
1	7	3	5	9	2	8	4	6
2	1	8	3	5	6	9	7	4
5	9	4	7	8	1	6	3	2
3	6	7	2	4	9	5	1	8
8	4	6	9	3	7	1	2	5
9	3	2	6	1	5	4	8	7
7	5	1	4	2	8	3	6	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

HITORI-3373

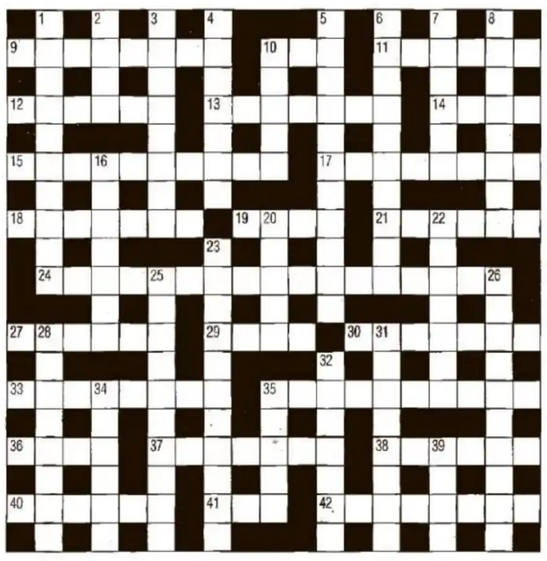
7	5	6	2	7	5	1	7
8	4	7	1	3	8	6	5
4	8	7	2	5	2	8	3
3	2	1	8	4	3	2	6
7	1	8	6	8	3	6	7
2	7	1	3	6	1	5	8
5	7	3	4	7	6	8	2
5	5	4	8	8	1	7	7

SOLUTION TO 3372

7	■	2	■	5	8	■	4
1	7	6	2	■	4	8	5
4	■	5	1	3	■	6	7
■	3	7	■	8	6	4	■
2	8	1	7	■	3	■	6
■	4	■	6	7	■	2	1
8	1	4	5	6	2	3	■
■	2	8	4	1	■	7	3

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4042



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 Be peeved when the eels are put in the van (4,4)
10 Would you be sorry to find it in your garden? (3)
11 The cockney was sick and the weather was wintry (6)
12 Marks it "Collectors' items" (6)
13 What started the fire at sea? (7)
14 Puts the phonetic pronunciation of "idle" (4)
15 Be patient and share my burden (4,4,2)
17 All, I bet, very worried (5,3)
18 Toyed with or succumbed to the temptation to swindle (7)
19 On the roads does it cut in, half the time? (4)
21 Moves in with the chest, taking a little time off (6)
24 Came up to scratch as a roundsman? (9,3,5)
27 Drink after drink (6)
29 Someone drawing rank (4)
30 Came blithely in like a breath of fresh air? (7)
33 Unhappily, there's little in do-it-yourself (8)
35 To start with, regard as a duty (5,5)
36 Drink and get fired (4)
37 Having putted round again, reached greater heights (7)
38 Yell desperately on being locked inside, desolate (6)
40 Show always to back a certain number (6)
41 In practice, Rod came round and wakened one up (3)
42 To put it briefly, not for the stupid (8)

DOWN
1 A break for the others, full stop (4,6)
2 The best tree in the orchard (4)
3 Plan to be used with the person I have broken with (8)
4 Why so terribly late coming in? That's rich! (7)
5 Suddenly believe --- you will get out of the tunnel? (3,3,5)
6 Cutting it down to the one word "fat" (10)
7 Put in the wrong place and lose? (6)
8 Gossamer thin? Excellent (4,4)
10 Scamp is unlike the others of his breed (5)
16 Annoys one day after day going through the questions (7)
20 Go off and leave you thoroughly confused (5)
22 From the new char poor Leo caught the disease (7)
23 Rotten in the role of the good-looking baddie? (6,5)
25 How much is known about the mysterious miniature? (4,6)
26 Surprised by there not being an address? (10)
28 Increase the number the bird is carrying (8)
31 How good, but rather frightening, the story was? (8)
32 Make for, having miscued (7)
34 An affair that does have importance (6)
35 One of the services might (5)
39 Want to return home, having the key to get in (4)

EASY

ACROSS
9 Amusing story (8)
10 Term of respect (3)
11 Values (6)
12 Show-off (6)
13 Fruit (7)
14 Gemstone (4)
15 Coward (7-3)
17 Storyteller (8)
18 Sharp knives (7)
19 Beancurd (4)
21 Gave a speech (6)
24 George Eliot novel (3,4,2,3,5)
27 Mysterious (6)
29 Require (4)
30 Top naval officer (7)
33 Hunger (8)
35 Mischievous Irish elf (10)
36 Therefore (4)
37 Drank alcohol (7)
38 Communicate (6)
40 Breakfast dish (6)
41 Body of water (3)
42 Busy period (4,4)

DOWN
1 Light-hearted (10)
2 Land measure (4)
3 Passage (8)
4 Small crane (7)
5 Battleship (11)
6 Grey predator (6,4)
7 Felt hat (6)
8 Large Scottish sword (8)
10 Sudden gush of liquid (5)
16 Mediterranean coastal region (7)
20 Imperial weight measure (5)
22 Put an end to (7)
23 Old weapon (11)
25 Not qualified (10)
26 Extremely dignified (10)
28 Witty remark (8)
31 Formal combatant (8)
32 Arachnids (7)
34 Ran away to marry (6)
35 Zodiac sign (5)
39 Dull pain (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12427

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Have-n 6, A-I-tch 9, Joyless 10, Fleet 11, Slink 12, Three 13, Cyn-thia 15, L-aw 17, Is-is 18, St.-ride 19, Blues 20, Exhale 22, Be-I-l 24, Sat 25, Gna-R-led 26, Lucre 27, Fines(-t) 28, SN-ail 29, Seafood 30, Frets 31, Bound
DOWN: 2, Alloys 3, Ej-EC-ts 4, Not 5, Aloha 6, As-serts 7, Isle 8, Conrad 12, Title 13, Cites 14, Night 15, Libel 16, Weald 18, Seine 19, Blo-uses 21, Xavier 22, Brando 23, Legion 25, G-ruff 26, Lest 28, Sob

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Treat 6, Miser 9, Deposit 10, Bison 11, Never 12, Cream 13, Decided 15, Rep 17, Odes 18, Merino 19, Habit 20, Easter 22, Here 24, Rue 25, Scooter 26, Brute 27, Dupes 28, Femur 29, Natives 30, Study 31, Ether
DOWN: 2, Raised 3, Adonis 4, Ten 5, Board 6, Minaret 7, Item 8, Eleven 12, Cedar 13, Dover 14, Cease 15, Rivet 16, Power 18, Mince 19, Hearsay 21, August 22, Honest 23, Resume 25, Staid 26, Bend 28, Fee

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
K5	N1	Q10	I1	E1	U1	C3		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
P3	A1	I1	Z10	N1	G2	P3		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 3
V4	C3	N1	O1	K5	O1	E1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
S1	S1	I1	A1	H4	L1	V4		

PAR SCORE 275-280
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

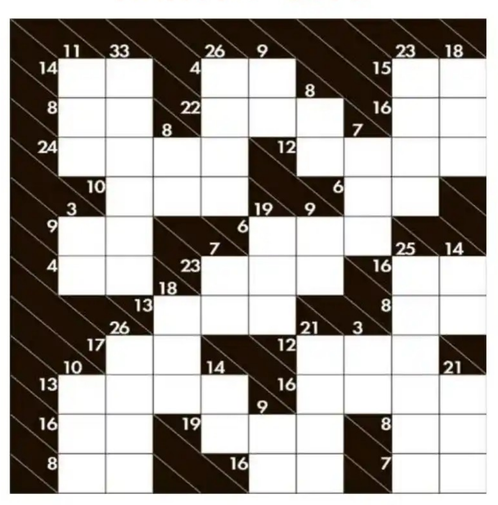
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3	A1	S1	T1	E1	R1	S1	RACK 1 =	68
S1	C3	I1	S1	S1	O1	R1	RACK 2 =	59
S1	L1	I1	P3	P3	E1	D2	RACK 3 =	86
M3	E1	M3	O1	I1	R1	S1	RACK 4 =	61
R1	H4	U1	B3	A1	R1	B3	RACK 5 =	78

PAR SCORE 230-240 JUDD'S TOTAL 352

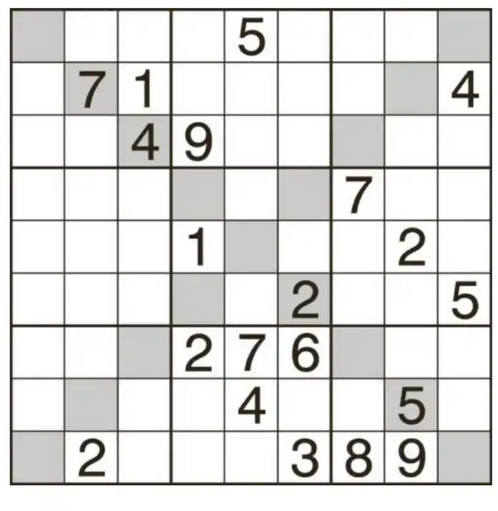
KAKURO- 3373



SOLUTION TO 3372

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3931



SOLUTION TO 3930

9	5	3	8	2	7	4	6	1
6	8	1	9	4	3	5	7	2
4	7	2	5	6	1	9	8	3
2	9	5	1	3	8	6	4	7
7	3	4	6	5	9	1	2	8
1	6	8	2	7	4	3	5	9
5	1	6	3	8	2	7	9	4
8	4	9	7	1	6	2	3	5
3	2	7	4	9	5	8	1	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Making final determination on Iran deal, says Trump

No final agreement has been reached yet, says Tehran

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that he was making a final decision on a potential deal with Iran, though Tehran insisted there was still "no final agreement" on ending the West Asia war.

A report from Iran's Fars news agency also rebutted several key elements of Trump's characterisation of the deal, citing informed sources as calling his remarks a "mixture of truth and lies".

US sources said the deal was awaiting Trump's sign-off following weeks of halting negotiations to end a conflict that had engulfed West Asia and shaken the global economy.

"I will be meeting now, in the Situation Room, to make a final determination," Trump said in a lengthy social media post, reiterating long-held demands that Iran agree never to have nuclear weapons and reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz shipping lane.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio (right) with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar (left) in Washington DC on Friday. The two nations discussed various topics including the US-Iran peace talk. AFP

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei, however, told state media that his country "said goodbye to the language of 'must' 47 years ago". "Regarding the understanding... exchanges of messages are continuing, but no final agreement has been reached yet," he added.

In his post, Trump said Tehran would remove mines in the Strait of Hormuz and end its blockade of the waterway with "no tolls", while the US would lift its parallel blockade of Iranian ports, and the two countries would coordinate on removing and destroying Iran's enriched uranium. He also said "no money will be exchanged, until further notice".

Fars, however, cited Iranian sources as saying that Tehran was demanding "the immediate release of $12 billion in frozen Iranian assets", and that "until this payment is made, Iran will not move to the next phase of negotiations".

As for the toll-free reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the sources said "no such clause appears in the text of the agreement", while the comment on destroying Iran's nuclear material "is fundamentally baseless".

Baqaei also said there were currently "no negotiations" on Iran's nuclear programme.

Trump's post came as Iran's top diplomat suggested the US was holding up a deal with its approach to the negotiations.

In a call with his Omani counterpart, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi "indicated that arriving at a final agreement depended on ending the American party's attitude based on excessive demands", his ministry said.

Hopes of a deal had risen on Thursday after US officials expressed optimism about the talks, with Vice President JD Vance telling reporters that "a lot of progress" had been made.

TERMS FOR DEAL

- Iran must agree never to develop or possess nuclear weapons.
- Strait of Hormuz must be reopened immediately for shipping in both directions, with no tolls.
- Iran must remove mines from the Strait of Hormuz.
- Iran's enriched uranium stockpiles to be dismantled or removed under international oversight.
- US naval blockade on Iranian ports would be lifted if the deal proceeds
- No money would be exchanged "until further notice"

Indian-American teenager wins Scripps National Spelling Bee

WASHINGTON, PTI: Shrey Parikh, a 14-year-old Indian-American student from California, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee on Friday after correctly spelling 32 of 35 words in a 90-second spell-off.

Parikh, an eighth-grade student at Day Creek Intermediate School, correctly spelt "Bromocriptine" in the final round to defeat 12-year-old Ishaan Gupta, a seventh-grade student at Frank R Conwell Middle School in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Twelve-year-old Sarv Dharavane from Peachtree Charter Middle School in Tucker, Georgia, finished third. Ishaan received USD 25,000 in prize money, while Sarv won USD 15,000.

Parikh also surpassed the previous spell-off record set in 2024 by Bruhat Soma, who correctly spelt 29 out of 30 words. "Spelling fast is what I do every day," Shrey said after winning the competition. Parikh, who was also a finalist in the 2024 edition, takes home several prizes, including $50,000, a commemorative medal, the Scripps Cup, $2,500 from Merriam-Webster, $1,000 in flight credits from Delta, and $400 worth of reference works from Encyclopaedia Britannica.

The three-day competition began on Monday at D.A.R. Constitution Hall in Washington with 247 contestants from all 50 US states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Defence Department schools in Europe, and five other countries — the Bahamas, Canada, Ghana, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket explodes during a test on a launchpad in Cape Canaveral, Florida (US) on Thursday. REUTERS

Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin rocket explodes on launch pad

▶ Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket erupted into a massive fireball during a ground test on Thursday, marking another setback for billionaire Jeff Bezos's space ambitions, AFP reports from Cape Canaveral.

Footage showed the towering rocket exploding in flames, followed by a mushroom cloud of smoke as bystanders watching the test reacted in shock. Bezos's space company Blue Origin said in a brief statement posted on X that it had experienced an "anomaly" during the test at Cape Canaveral in the US state of Florida, adding that "all personnel have been accounted for". The explosion is the latest blow to the Amazon founder's position in the intensifying race among private companies pursuing space exploration. "It's too early to know the root cause but we're already working to find it," Bezos wrote on X. "Very rough day, but we'll rebuild whatever needs rebuilding and get back to flying. It's worth it." The New Glenn rocket, which stands 98 metres tall, is central to Blue Origin's ambitions to compete with Elon Musk's SpaceX, which is developing Starship, the largest rocket ever built.

Shaolin Temple ex-chief jailed

▶ Shi Yongxin, former head monk of China's Shaolin Temple, who played a significant role in popularising kung fu around the world, was on Friday sentenced to 24 years in prison on graft charges, PTI reports from Beijing .

Shi was convicted of crimes including duty encroachment, embezzlement of funds and bribery, according to the Intermediate People's Court of Xinxiang City in central China's Henan Province. He was also fined 3.5 million yuan ($516,000). The monk was sacked and detained in July last year for violating Buddhist precepts. The violations included improper relationships with multiple women and fathering illegitimate children. He had served as Shaolin Temple's abbot since 1999 and earned the nickname "CEO monk" for transforming the institution into a globally recognised brand.

People gather near a light installation ahead of Vesak Day, the birthday of Buddha, in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday. REUTERS

Sudanese forces kill 27 civilians

▶ A humanitarian organisation on Friday accused forces affiliated with a Sudanese paramilitary group of targeting civilians in an area of Sudan free of any military presence during a major Muslim holiday, killing 27 people, among them elderly people, AP/PTI reports from Cairo.

Sudan Doctors Network, a group that tracks violence across the country, blamed forces affiliated with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces for carrying out the attacks on Thursday on villages in the al-Murrah area located west of Barah town in North Kordofan.

Cuba's water crisis deepens

▶ Nearly 3 million Cubans experience water shortages every day because of a severe oil shortage that government officials blame on a US energy blockade, authorities said late on Wednesday during a roundtable discussion on the impact of the ongoing blockade, AP/PTI reports from Havana.

The island's water system is operating with only 37% of the required fuel as Cuba faces its worst energy crisis. The water system is among the sectors most affected because it is one of the country's largest energy consumers, said Antonio Rodríguez, president of the state-run National Institute of Water Resources. Details of the forum, which focused on the intermittent water supply affecting a population of nearly 10 million people, were published on Thursday by the official website Cubadebate. Complicating the problem is ageing infrastructure and oversaturated pumping stations, especially in large cities like Havana.

Israeli forces cross key Lebanon river in ground offensive

Troops intensify attacks against Hezbollah

JERUSALEM/BEIRUT, REUTERS:

Israeli forces advanced to positions north of Lebanon's Litani River, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday, as Israel intensified attacks against Hezbollah after warning thousands more Lebanese residents to flee their villages.

The Israeli advance came as the US military hosted Israeli and Lebanese defence representatives in Washington on Friday to pursue a US-brokered plan aimed at securing peace between the two countries and disarming the Iran-backed Hezbollah group.

The Washington talks also seek to reinforce an April 16 ceasefire that has failed to halt cross-border fighting, with Israeli warplanes striking southern and eastern Lebanon while Hezbollah fires drones and rockets into Israel.

The Israeli military said earlier this week that it had expanded ground operations beyond a security zone occupied since April 16. During a visit to the Israel-Lebanon border on Friday, Netanyahu said troops had moved further north, beyond the Litani River, which runs east-west around 30 km into southern Lebanon. "Our forces have crossed the Litani and advanced to controlling positions," Netanyahu said in remarks to military personnel released by his office.

"We are operating in Beirut, in the Bekaa Valley, across the entire width of the front, and are dealing Hezbollah a crushing blow," he said.

Lebanese security sources, however, said Israeli troops crossed the Litani near the village of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah on Thursday before retreating later in the day to the southern bank of the river.

Smoke billows from southern Lebanon following Israeli airstrikes on Friday. REUTERS

Officials inspect the site of an explosion at a residential apartment block after a drone strike near the border with Ukraine, in Galati, Romania, on Friday. REUTERS

Nato condemns Russia after drone hits Romania

GALATI/MOSCOW, REUTERS

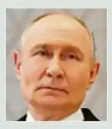
Nato accused Moscow of reckless behaviour and pledged to "defend every inch of Allied territory" after Romania said a Russian drone crashed into an apartment block in the alliance member state during an attack on neighbouring Ukraine.

Romania's defence ministry said a woman and a child suffered minor injuries in the southeastern city of Galati, near the Ukrainian border, after radar tracked a Russian drone entering Romanian airspace overnight.

Photos from the scene showed charred and damaged brickwork on the roof of the 10-storey apartment block, which authorities said was struck by a drone that exploded on impact and caused a fire in a top-floor flat.

Later on Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin questioned whether the drone was Russian and suggested it could have been Ukrainian.

VLADIMIR PUTIN
Russian president



"No one can say what the origin of this or that drone is until an examination has been carried out.

"Who in Romania says that this is a Russian drone?" Putin told reporters at a news conference in Astana, Kazakhstan.

"No one can say what the origin of this or that drone is until an examination has been carried out," he said, adding that Ukrainian drones had previously strayed into the airspace of Finland, Poland and the Baltic states.

Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte condemned the incident after speaking by phone with Romanian President Nicusor Dan. "Russia's reckless behaviour is a danger to us all," Rutte wrote on X.

"I affirmed that Nato stands ready to defend every inch of Allied territory," he said, adding that the alliance would continue to strengthen its readiness against threats, including drones. Dan said Russia's actions showed "total disregard for international law and for the safety of the citizens of a Nato member state".

Romanian Foreign Minister Oana Toiu said the Russian ambassador had been summoned, while the country's top defence council convened following the incident.

It marked the first time a densely populated area in a Nato country had been struck and injuries reported during the war in Ukraine, increasing tensions on the alliance's eastern flank amid fears of the conflict spilling across borders.

India, US hold talks on Indo-Pacific security

SINGAPORE, PTI: Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh met Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command Admiral Samuel J Paparo in Singapore on Friday and held wide-ranging talks on security challenges in the region.

Singh's talks with Paparo — on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue 2026 — focused on "strengthening military-to-military cooperation and addressing emerging security challenges" in the Indo-Pacific region, the Directorate of Public Relations under India's Ministry of Defence said in a social media post. The meeting reaffirmed the "shared commitment" to deepening India-US defence ties at a time when the Indo-Pacific has emerged as the central theatre of global strategic competition, it said.

Earlier this week, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio noted that 60% of global maritime trade passes through the Indo-Pacific, underscoring the region's critical importance for Washington.

For India, the Indo-Pacific forms the core of its security calculus. The Indian Ocean flanks the country on three sides—the Arabian Sea to the west, the Indian Ocean proper to the south, and the Bay of Bengal to the east.

Netanyahu cites India's 'crazy love' for Israel amid global criticism

JERUSALEM, PTI

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has described India as a "huge power" where there is "an absolutely crazy love for Israel", despite what he called efforts to delegitimise the Jewish state elsewhere.

Speaking at a leadership programme in the Jordan Valley on Thursday, Netanyahu cited India as a key example of Israel's expanding international ties as he discussed the country's global relationships and efforts to broaden diplomatic engagement. The remarks came amid a fragile geopolitical situation in West Asia, with Israel facing security challenges on multiple fronts and seeking to strengthen ties with partners beyond its traditional allies.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
Israeli prime minister

"In India, there is an absolutely crazy love for Israel, truly crazy. I think I have more followers from India than from anywhere else.

"We are expanding our alliances and what you are talking about is expanding these alliances to a large space. And the larger space is really our unique relationship with a huge power called India," Netanyahu said in a video released by the Government Press Office.

Referring to international criticism of Israel, he said: "I will say this: we face delegitimisation in much of the world — but not in India. In India, there is an absolutely crazy love for Israel, truly crazy. I think I have more followers from India than from anywhere else."

In the past, Netanyahu has often highlighted his personal rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and spoken about the strength of ties between India and Israel.

Vandalism at Pretoria Hindu temple condemned

JOHANNESBURG, PTI: Nearly 30 religious groups issued a statement of solidarity with the Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj (PHSS) after Islamic slogans were sprayed on the external walls and glass doors of the organisation's temple and community hall over the weekend.

"We, the undersigned representatives of Hindu, Muslim, Christian and broader community organisations of Tshwane strongly condemn vandalism at the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj in Laudium," the joint statement said.

UK far-right leader targets Indians, Pakistanis over jobs

LONDON, PTI: The leader of a far-right party in the UK has triggered a social media storm with anti-immigration remarks, including comments attacking the "import" of Indians and Pakistanis whom he claimed had taken jobs away from unemployed Britons.

Rupert Lowe, elected as MP for Great Yarmouth in eastern England on a Reform UK ticket led by Nigel Farage, launched his own far-right offshoot, Restore Britain, after being suspended following an internal rift last year.

His online comments have gone viral in recent weeks ahead of a key by-election in Makerfield, with some of his posts reposted on X by tech billionaire Elon Musk. "I don't believe we should import millions of Pakistanis and Indians to do jobs that unemployed Brits should be doing. If that makes me a racist, then so be it," Lowe wrote in a post on Thursday.

"Expecting foreign nationals living in England to speak English and give more than they take is not racist. Even if you think it is, we don't care," he said earlier this week.

In a direct challenge to Farage, Lowe reacted to the Reform UK leader's post calling for a "serious conversation" after Sweden banned cousin marriages common in some migrant communities over health concerns.

Actor Tom Hanks poses with his character Woody, upon arrival to attend the red carpet for the UK launch of the film 'Toy Story 5' in London on Thursday. AFP

Biz Bytes

Happiest Minds Q4 net profit rises 80%

NEW DELHI, PTI: Happiest Minds Technologies on Friday reported a 79.9% growth in consolidated net profit to Rs 61.17 crore in the January-March quarter of FY26, on the back of improved employee utilisation and a resulting expansion in operating margins. It had posted a net profit of Rs 34 crore in the corresponding quarter of FY25, according to filings.

Revenue from operations grew 10.9% to Rs 604.08 crore during the quarter, compared to Rs 544.57 crore a year ago.

Forex kitty drops $7.5 bn to $681.38 bn

MUMBAI, PTI: India's forex reserves dropped $7.511 billion to $681.384 billion during the week ended May 22, the RBI said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the kitty had dropped $8.094 billion to $688.894 billion.

For the week ended May 22, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased $2.872 billion to $543.032 billion, the central bank's data showed.

Tesla drives in new car at Rs 51 lakh

NEW DELHI, PTI: Continuing its product portfolio expansion drive in India, American electric carmaker Tesla on Friday introduced the 2026 Model Y Premium rear-wheel drive in the country, priced at Rs 50.89 lakh, its most-affordable offering so far.

The Model Y Premium rear-wheel drive introduces a suite of hardware and design enhancements, the company said.

Delivery of the Model Y Premium rear-wheel drive will start in July. The vehicle has a range of up to 500 km on a single charge (WLTP) and can accelerate 0-100 kmph in 5.9 seconds.

Resilient Indian economy may face West Asia headwinds: RBI

Says agricultural output likely to see El Nino impact

MUMBAI, PTI

India's economy could face headwinds due to higher energy prices and supply-chain disruptions, while the likelihood of El Nino conditions could hit agriculture output, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its annual report released on Friday.

However, healthy corporate and bank balance sheets, the government's continued thrust on capital expenditure and the implementation of trade agreements with key partners are expected to sustain investment and growth momentum.

The RBI released its Annual Report for 2025-26, a statutory report of its Central Board of Directors, on Friday. It covers its working and functions for the period April 2025-March 2026.

Market volatility persisted due to geopolitical risks and valuation concerns, but surged towards the end of March 2026, following the West Asia conflict.

The Indian economy exhibited resilience in 2025-26, amid several external headwinds, supported by strong private consumption, sustained investment and sound macroeconomic fundamentals.

The report said the outlook for the economy in 2026-27 remains positive, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, although a prolonged West Asia conflict may pose downside risk.

"Going forward, India's growth outlook remains positive, though the West Asia conflict and the attendant risks of elevated energy prices, supply-chain disruptions, financial market volatility, uncertainty surrounding global trade policies and weather-related disruptions could pose headwinds to growth and inflation in the short run," it said.

The RBI added that the outlook for the agriculture sector in 2026-27 remains contingent upon the progress and distribution of the southwest monsoon. The likelihood of El Nino conditions poses downside risks to agriculture output, it mentioned.

On Friday, the India Meteorological Department said the June-September southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall over India is expected to be 90% of the long-period average with a model error of 4%.

On price situation, the report said inflation in 2026-27 is likely to remain aligned with the target on the back of adequate foodgrain stocks, sufficient reservoir levels and stable agricultural prospects despite possible El Nino conditions and above-normal summer temperatures.

"However, the evolving upside risks to inflation may emanate from multiple other factors, such as spike in global fuel and commodity prices amid geopolitical tensions, potential spillovers to input and wage costs, and volatility in exchange rate," it said. Considering all these factors, consumer price index-based inflation for 2026-27 is projected at 4.6%, with risks tilted to the upside, the RBI said.

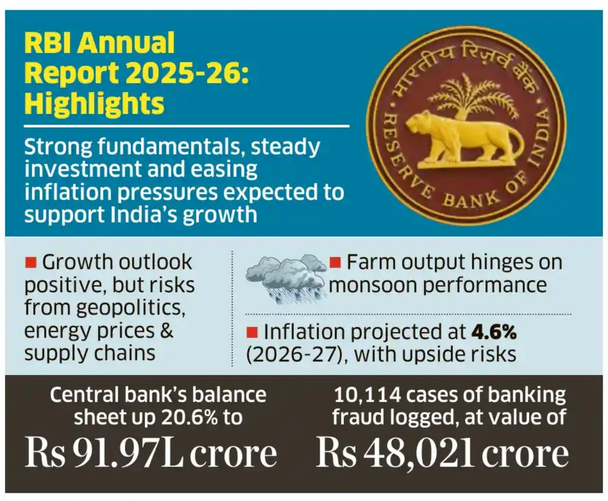
Reserve Bank's balance sheet swelled to Rs 91.97 lakh crore at the end of March 2026, up 20.6% year-on-year, due to a rise in domestic investments, as well as gold and foreign investments.

The balance sheet size increased by Rs 15,71,699.15 crore, from Rs 76,25,421.93 crore as on March 31, 2025, to Rs 91,97,121.08 crore as on March 31, 2026, the Annual Report for 2025-26 said.

The increase on the assets side was due to a rise in domestic investments, gold and foreign investments by 44.9%, 63.8% and 7.9%, respectively. As on March 31, 2026, the report said total gold held by the RBI was 880.52 metric tonnes, compared to 879.58 metric tonnes as on March 31, 2025, an increase of 0.94 metric tonnes of gold in the year.

"Of the 880.52 metric tonnes, 312.32 metric tonnes of gold is held as an asset of the Issue Department as compared to 311.38 metric tonnes as on March 31, 2025," it said. The remaining 568.20 metric tonnes, same as on March 31, 2025, is treated as an asset of the Banking Department, RBI said.

The report further said banks and financial institutions, taken together, reported 10,114 fraud cases involving Rs 48,021 crore in 2025-26, against 23,722 cases involving Rs 32,803 crore in 2024-25.


RBI Annual Report 2025-26: Highlights
Strong fundamentals, steady investment and easing inflation pressures expected to support India's growth
Growth outlook positive, but risks from geopolitics, energy prices & supply chains
Farm output hinges on monsoon performance
Inflation projected at 4.6% (2026-27), with upside risks
Central bank's balance sheet up 20.6% to Rs 91.97L crore
10,114 cases of banking fraud logged, at value of Rs 48,021 crore

IndiGo reports Rs 2,537 cr loss in fourth quarter

NEW DELHI, PTI

Flying into the red, IndiGo on Friday reported a loss of Rs 2,536.9 crore in the March quarter due to multiple headwinds, including challenging operating conditions and rupee depreciation.

India's largest airline had a profit of Rs 3,067.5 crore in the year-ago period.

For the 2025-26 fiscal, the carrier posted a net loss of Rs 2,393.6 crore, but excluding the impact of foreign exchange and exceptional items, it would have been a profit of Rs 7,502.5 crore, it said in a release.

Total income in the fourth quarter of the 2025-26 fiscal rose over 3% to Rs 23,830.7 crore from Rs 23,097.5 crore in the same period a year ago, according to the release.

"For the quarter ended March 2026, IndiGo reported a net loss of Rs 25,369 million. Excluding the impact of foreign exchange and exceptional items, the company reported a net profit of Rs 19,206 million," the release added.

Despite continuing external disruptions in 2025-26, IndiGo said its capacity rose 9.5% on an annual basis, and the total income grew 6.4 per cent to Rs 89,513.4 crore.

"Exceptionally sharp rupee depreciation, changes in labour laws and a challenging operating environment offset the operational profit and the company reported a net loss of Rs 23,936 million," the airline said.

In 2025-26, the foreign exchange loss was around Rs 8,100 crore, and the impact of the December flight disruptions stood at Rs 580 crore. Besides, the expenses related to the implementation of the new labour laws were at Rs 1,200 crore, as per the airline's financial statements.

IndiGo MD Rahul Bhatia said FY26 was marked by an exceptionally challenging operating environment, which materially impacted its profitability.

"During the year, our capacity grew by 9.5%, and total income increased by over 6%. Excluding the impact of foreign exchange and exceptional items, IndiGo delivered a profit of Rs 75 billion," he said.

In the June quarter, capacity in terms of ASKs (Available Seat Kilometres) is expected to grow around 3-4% as compared to the first quarter of fiscal year 2026.

The airline witnessed multiple challenges in the last financial year, including the massive operational disruptions, especially between December 3 and 5 last year — a period during which 2,507 flights were cancelled, and 1,852 flights were delayed, impacting over 3 lakh passengers at airports across the country.

In March, Pieter Elbers quit as CEO, and later that month, the airline announced the appointment of William Walsh, a pilot and current chief of the global airlines' grouping IATA, as its next CEO.

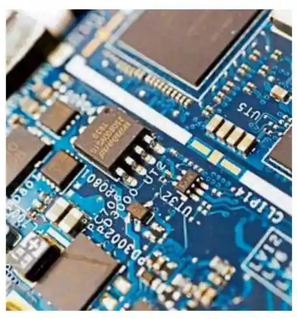
The airline's domestic market share stood at 63.3% in March.

Shares of IndiGo fell 3.27% to close at Rs 4,418.40 apiece on the BSE.

EARNINGS HIGHLIGHTS
IndiGo swings to Rs 2,537 cr Q4 loss from year-ago profit
• Forex hit dents FY26 earnings by about Rs 8,100 cr
• FY26 total income rises 6.4% to Rs 89,513 cr
• Capacity expands 9.5% amid operational disruptions
IndiGo holds 63.3% domestic market share
IndiGo
Ground Force

'Semiconductor market projected to reach around $200 billion by 2035'

NITI Aayog report calls for building of $120-150-bn value-chain



UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's semiconductor market is projected to reach around $200 billion by 2035. However, despite the growing domestic demand, nearly 90-95% of this demand is currently met through imports, leading to large foreign exchange outflows and increasing the vulnerability of critical sectors to supply-chain disruptions, a NITI Aayog report said on Friday.

To build a globally competitive semiconductor ecosystem in India will require nearly $135-180 billion in cumulative semiconductor investments over the next decade, directed toward growth capital across design, fabrication, advanced packaging, materials and supporting infrastructure, it said, adding that the government should commit at least one-third of the required investment to de-risk projects and anchor long-term investor confidence. By 2035, the global semiconductor market is expected to exceed $1.5 trillion.

The report, 'Future of India's Semiconductor Industry', suggested that fabs, advanced packaging, compound semiconductors and critical design infrastructure should be prioritised for public funding. Alongside funding support, the focus should also be on stability, predictable incentives and coordinated execution across the value-chain.

The report also suggested that India should target building a $120-150-billion semiconductor value-chain by choosing leadership and purpose over participation. "Instead of chasing the global wafer race from behind, India should define its own pathway — one that is not only distinct, but shaped by strategic self-sufficiency, ecosystem strength and global indispensability," the report stated.

Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog, said the country has taken important early steps through the India Semiconductor Mission. Investments in fabrication, assembly, testing and packaging, along with India's deep design talent base, provide a strong foundation. "Yet, as the technology landscape continues to evolve rapidly, India must look ahead to identify emerging opportunities to leapfrog, rather than only strengthening its ability to catch up," she added.

Ghosh said India must build on its structural strengths — design talent, software capability, engineering depth, domestic demand, materials potential and trusted partnerships — while investing in frontier R&D, advanced OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test), critical materials, semiconductor IP, skilled talent and long-term institutional capacity.

Asian Paints Q4 profit rises 69%

NEW DELHI, PTI: Asian Paints on Friday reported a 69.15% YoY increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,185.49 crore in the March quarter of FY26.

The company had logged a net profit of Rs 700.83 crore during the January-March period a year ago, Asian Paints said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from sales went up 10.79% to Rs 9,228.46 crore in the March quarter of FY26.

The same was at Rs 8,329.59 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, the company said in the filing.

Google keyword ads ruling may reshape online advertising

NEW DELHI, REUTERS: An Indian court ruling that Google infringed the trademark rights of a bathroom fittings-maker by allowing rivals to use its name as an advertising keyword could reshape the online ads market, the country's businesses said on Friday.

The court ordered Google to pay damages of $31,600 in a ruling issued on May 22 by the Delhi High Court, which businesses have since been responding to.

The Delhi HC says Google allowed rival companies of Hindware to use "Hindware" as a keyword to target their own advertising.

The court said "the manner in which Google operates its AdWords Policy makes it clear that Google sells or auctions the use of the trademark ... without any authorisation from the proprietor of the trademark".

Lawyers, businesses and brand managers on Friday took to social media to support the ruling, which they said will have major implications.

Nithin Kamath, Founder of Indian brokerage firm Zerodha, said his brand had suffered from similar issues for years, and the ruling "now opens up a route for legal recourse".

"You create the brand. Someone else bids on it. Google takes the fee ... (this ruling) could change the economics of online advertising for millions of businesses," said Anupam Mittal, Founder of matchmaking company Shaadi.com.

Google did not respond to a request for comment.

Rupee rises 73 paise to close at 94.85/USD

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee appreciated 73 paise to close at 94.85 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday, as renewed optimism over the peace deal between the US and Iran boosted sentiment.

Forex traders said the USD/INR pair appreciated on an overnight decline in crude prices and a fall in the dollar, after the US and Iran reached an understanding to extend the ceasefire for another 60 days.

On Thursday, negotiators reached a tentative agreement to extend the ceasefire and start a new round of talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 95.77 against the dollar, then touched an intraday high of 94.85 and a low of 95.78 during the day.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.13, up 0.11%.

Sensex down 1,092 points on below-normal monsoon trend

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark stock index Sensex tumbled 1,092 points and Nifty closed below 24,550 on Friday, amid reports of a below-normal monsoon season rainfall and geopolitical uncertainty related to the US-Iran ceasefire arrangement.

Dragged by a late-minute selling rush, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,092.06 points, or 1.44%, to settle at 74,775.74. During the day, it dropped 1,278.69 points, or 1.68%, to 74,589.11.

Falling for the third consecutive session, the 50-share NSE Nifty dived 359.40 points, or 1.50%, to end at 23,547.75.

Among 30 Sensex firms, Power Grid, InterGlobe Aviation, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel and Bajaj Finance were the major laggards. Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Larsen & Toubro and Infosys were the gainers.

The June-September southwest monsoon rainfall over India is expected to be 90% of the long-period average with a model error of 4%, the India Meteorological Department said on Friday.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 1.52% to $92.29 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,042.70 crore on Wednesday, according to data from the stock exchange.

Anthropic raises $65 billion in Series H, valuation nears trillion dollars

BENGALURU, DHNS: AI firm Anthropic has raised $65 billion in Series H funding, valuing the company at $965 billion. The funding round was led by Altimeter Capital, Dragoneer, Greenoaks, and Sequoia Capital. The company has overtaken rival OpenAI to become the world's most-valuable AI startup.

The latest funding is expected to advance the company's safety and interpretability research, expand compute to meet growing demand for Claude, and scale the products and partnerships.

In February, the company raised $30 billion in Series G funding, at a $380 billion post-money valuation.

Global enterprises across industries are deploying Claude in their core operations. "Since our Series G in February, adoption has continued to grow across global enterprise customers, and our run-rate revenue crossed $47 billion earlier this month," the AI firm said.

"Claude is increasingly indispensable to our growing global community of customers, and we work tirelessly to make tools like Claude Code and Cowork more helpful, more powerful, and more adaptable to their needs," said Krishna Rao, CFO of Anthropic. "This funding will help us serve the historic demand we are experiencing, stay at the research frontier, and bring Claude to more of the places where work happens," Rao added.

Significant investors in this round include AMP PBC, Baillie Gifford, Blackstone, Brookfield, D.E. Shaw Ventures, DST Global, Fidelity Management & Research Company, General Catalyst and Insight Partners, among others. It also includes $15 billion of previously-committed investments from hyperscalers, including $5 billion from Amazon.

AI HORIZON

Infosys CEO Salil Parekh's remuneration rises to Rs 82.59 crore in FY26

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh took home Rs 82.6 crore in total remuneration for FY2026, a 2.45% rise compared to Rs 80.62 crore in FY25. In FY24, Parekh earned Rs 66.25 crore.

According to the company's FY26 annual report, the CEO earned Rs 50.75 crore pertaining to exercise of 2,72,400 Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) under the 2015 Plan and 64,690 RSUs under the 2019 Plan during fiscal 2026.

The report mentioned that Parekh's remuneration was 742 times the median remuneration of employees during FY26.

The average annual increase in the salaries of employees was 11% in India and employees abroad received a wage increase in line with market trends in the respective countries, the annual report stated.

In his letter to shareholders, Chairman Nandan M Nilekani said more than three years after the launch of Generative AI, "we can unequivocally say that Infosys is more relevant than ever, and we have a bright future in front of us".

The shift from predictable machines to probabilistic ones is as consequential as the speed of adoption, and it is reshaping what the work now requires.

Cybersecurity must be prioritised, and data protected per company rules and other governance policies. There is plenty to be done as we address the deployment gap in our large enterprise customers, he added.

Salil Parekh

He also stated that the AI revolution has also created an extreme sense of urgency in customers for legacy modernisation, eliminating data silos, addressing AI-identified cyber vulnerabilities, and in general, reducing and eliminating the technical debt accumulated over decades. "The preference will be to build versus buy for software. All this creates significant opportunities. The biggest prize will be how we meld the world of models and agents with the traditional deterministic systems that currently dominate the enterprise. While the new capabilities bring intelligence, simplified user experience and extreme automation, the highly-scalable and reliable transaction systems of yore are still highly relevant. This will also create a large set of opportunities," he added.

He quoted the World Economic Forum report which projected that by 2030, 92 million jobs will be displaced and 170 million created, a net gain of 78 million. "Capturing that gain requires empathy for the people affected, clarity about the outcomes sought, and the intellectual honesty to course-correct when technology and human judgement diverge," he added.

Parekh told shareholders that Infosys is emerging as a leader in AI services, with AI-led programmes now deployed across 90% of the company's top 200 clients and rapidly scaling across industries.

"Infosys is well-positioned as the leading company for AI services. Our focus is to continuously re-skill our over 3,25,000 employees on AI. Our disciplined execution delivered over $20 billion in revenue," he said, adding that in the last fiscal, the company recruited over 20,000 college graduates.

'Karnataka home to 50% of AI/ML talent in India'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka is home to about 50% of India's AI/ML talent. The state has the largest concentration of GCCs in India, and the highest college density, Guruprasad Mudlapur, Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council 2026-27 and President, Bosch Group India and MD, Bosch Limited, said.

On Friday, CII Karnataka announced its strategic roadmap for 2026-27, outlining key priorities to accelerate the state's competitiveness on the global stage. Mudlapur said many startups and established firms are already working on AI/ML technologies, and are ready and willing to use AI in a big way.

For 2026-27, CII has identified 'Accelerating Karnataka's Competitiveness: Growth, Resilience, Inclusion, Sustainability and Trust' as its theme, prioritising five key pillars. He added that CII Karnataka will advance its agenda focusing on advocacy and ease of doing business, promoting inclusive and balanced growth beyond Bengaluru, and enhancing ecosystem competitiveness through capability building for Future Readiness, MSME, family business, and supply chain, including AI transformation, decarbonisation, energy transition, and water stewardship.

Aru and Kiko

Rachna Chhabria writes a story about a boy whose invisible companion creates trouble at school

Aru was walking in the park near his house. He saw a young boy of his age in a brown T-shirt and brown shorts, sitting alone on a bench. Chatterbox Aru sat down next to the boy.

"Hi," Aru said.

"Hey there," the boy smiled. "My name is Kiko. What's yours?"

"My name is Aru. I study in Blue Dale School," Aru said. "Where do you study?"

"I left school a year back," Kiko sighed.

A few people walking past stared at Aru with odd expressions on their faces.

"Why?" Aru asked.

"I don't feel comfortable revealing the reason," Kiko replied.

"Sorry for making you feel awkward," Aru apologised. "What are your hobbies?"

"I love reading, playing and eating."

"Ditto," Aru laughed.

A man jogging past scowled at him.

Aru and Kiko chatted for a while.

"It's getting late. I better go home," Aru said, waving goodbye as he left the park.

The next morning, while Aru was getting ready for school, he was surprised to see Kiko standing beside him.

Before Aru could say anything, someone knocked on his door. His cook, Nimmi didi, entered his room carrying his breakfast. "Your mother wants you to finish everything," she said.

Aru was shocked that she couldn't see Kiko standing beside him. Goosebumps dotted his arms. Kiko was a ghost! No wonder the people in the park were giving him odd looks, wondering who he was chatting with.

"Hello, Aru," Kiko said cheerfully. "I'm not a ghost but a magic spirit."

"How did you come into my room?" Aru asked.

"Through the window," Kiko said, drifting out of the seventh-floor window.

Aru watched wide-eyed as Kiko reappeared in the room.

"How is it that only I can see you and no one else can?" Aru asked.

"You must be special," Kiko smiled. "I want to accompany you to school every day," he said, floating near the ceiling.

"No," Aru shook his head, craning his neck to watch Kiko do backflips.

"You can't deprive me of education," Kiko reasoned. He stood in front of Aru with a serious expression on his face, his feet floating three inches above the ground.

"You will have an invisible friend in school sitting beside you. I can even help you with homework, especially art homework," Kiko grinned wickedly, flipping through Aru's art notebook. His translucent body quivered with excitement, like sunlight rippling over a lake.

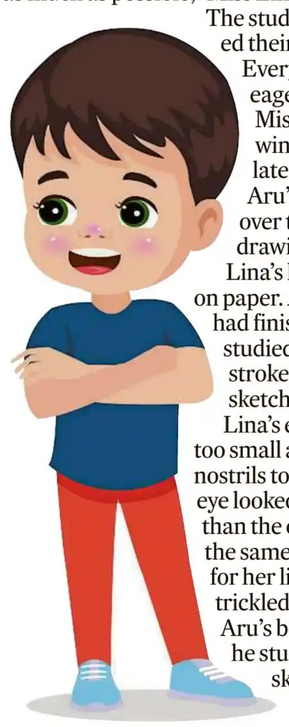
"That's bribery," Aru said. He badly needed help in art class. "I can't take you to school if you don't wear the school uniform."

"Croseous," Kiko said.

Kiko's brown clothes transformed into Aru's grey and purple school uniform, right down to the purple badge. Aru gaped. Not only did Kiko look smart, the uniform suited Kiko more than Aru.

Aru slid into the back seat of his car. All through the car ride, he flung dirty looks at Kiko, who flew beside the car singing a song. They entered the school together. Luckily, no one could see Kiko. The first two classes were a breeze, as Kiko behaved himself during English and Hindi. It was during the third period that things went wrong.

The art teacher, Miss Lina, entered the classroom. "Today's drawing exercise is to sketch my face. Make the sketch resemble me as much as possible," Miss Lina said.



The students started their sketches. Everyone was eager to please Miss Lina and win a chocolate from her. Aru's hand flew over the sheet, drawing Miss Lina's likeness on paper. After he had finished, he studied his pencil strokes. In Aru's sketch, Miss Lina's ears looked too small and her nostrils too big. One eye looked bigger than the other, and the same was true for her lips. Sweat trickled down Aru's body as he studied his sketch.

"Wow, you are a great artist," Kiko mocked.

"Help me," Aru pleaded.

Kiko immediately whispered a few spells to transform Aru's sketch. But nothing seemed to be working. Aru started sweating, tears spilling out of his eyes. Seeing the sketch, the teacher would definitely punish him.

"Five more minutes, students," Miss Lina said.

"If you can't beat them, then make them join you," Kiko said. Looking around the classroom, he whispered a few spells.

Aru saw that in the sketch of the girl sitting on his right, instead of Miss Lina, a clock stared at him. In another student's sketch there was a water jug. In one sketch, instead of the teacher there was a pair of glasses, and in another there was a pencil.

Miss Lina walked between the rows, collecting the drawing sheets from the students. Her scowl became deeper and deeper as she gathered the sketches. "Students, all of you will undergo detention for the entire week," Miss Lina announced.

"It's all your fault that my classmates are getting detention," Aru accused Kiko.

Kiko looked repentant. He whispered a few spells. Luckily for him, the spells worked, and every drawing became an exact replica of the teacher.

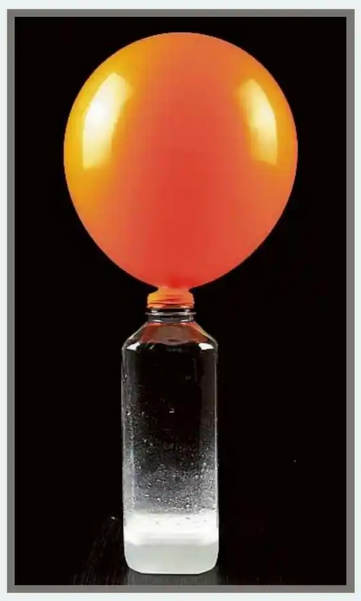
As the teacher shuffled the papers, she blinked her eyes, then rubbed them. "Students, detention cancelled," she said slowly.

"Whew," Kiko sighed. "No more magic in school."

"Also, no more school for you!" Aru said.

2 DIY experiments using vinegar

...and other household items



Inflating balloon

Materials needed

- Vinegar
- Baking soda
- Small plastic bottle
- Balloon
- Funnel

Method

1) Pour vinegar into the bottle.
2) Put baking soda into the balloon using a funnel.
3) Stretch the balloon over the bottle opening without letting the powder fall in.
4) Lift the balloon so the baking soda drops into the vinegar.
5) You will notice that the balloon inflates.

What happened

The reaction between the baking soda and vinegar produces carbon dioxide gas, which fills and inflates the balloon.

Naked egg

Materials needed

- Vinegar
- Raw egg
- Clear glass or jar

Method

1) Place the egg in a glass.
2) Cover it completely with vinegar.
3) Leave it for 24-48 hours.
4) Carefully remove and rinse the egg.
5) You will note that the eggshell has completely dissolved.

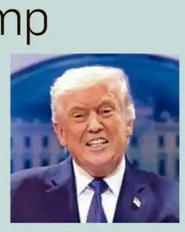
What happened

The vinegar reacts with the calcium carbonate in the eggshell, and dissolves the hard outer layer. After a day or two, only the transparent membrane surrounding the egg remains. The egg becomes bouncy and rubbery.

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to Donald Trump

If you could have a conversation with US president Donald Trump, what would you like to know about him, and what would you tell him about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph. Entries close on June 18.



LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Is time travel a good idea?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Entries close on June 11. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

queasy

(adjective)
— feeling sick or nauseous; slightly nervous or worried about something

Usage:
— Sneha grew queasy when she heard the details of the accident.
— Varun felt queasy before the final match.

If I could change one thing...

Open Sesame readers write verses for a better tomorrow

Managing time

There are many things that
I would like to change,
Each thing, at any moment,
can feel strange.
Though, there is one thing
with my work,
At school, it gives a big jerk.
"You need to work on your
time management,"
That is the feedback I am
told quite frequently.
Yes, I would like to change
my time management
skills,
Enough to take an exam
without getting any chills.
If I could change this,
My life would be bliss,
My work would be
complete,
There would be no need to
compete.

– **ADVITA R P, 11**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

A kind deed

I wish I could change one thing.
Instead of dancing, I'd rather sing.
But only one thing would be so hard to choose,
When in a competition, I'd rather win than lose.
If I could change one thing,
I'd change the lives of people who are suffering.
People like us have everything we could wish for,
But it is not the same for children who are poor.
If there was one thing I could change,
From toys to chocolates, it would range.
Yet I would change the fate of children in need;
Their whole lives would be changed by just one kind deed.

– **AKSHADHA NATHAN, 12**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Perfect imperfections

There are so many things I wish I
could change,
More money to spend, and a new
clothing range.
A life with success, a penthouse
with a nice view,
And ten hours of sleep every day
would be sweet too.
A life where homework would
complete itself overnight,
Now that would be perfect, right?
But as I sit and reflect,
I realise life isn't meant to be
perfect.
I'm grateful for the life I'm living
every day,
For it is what shaped the person I
am today.
So the next time I'm
asked, my answer
might sound strange,
Because I'd smile and
say that there's nothing
I'd change.

– **NAVAMI YOGESH KAMAT, 16**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Cool down, Mother Earth

The crumbling world,
She's impatient now.
Her powers are breaking out.
The Earth has shaken,
It's hard to look
At the aftermath looming low.
I'd hate to say,
The gullible fools we are,
We think the end is far.
Alas! The trick of fate
Has twisted a bit too late.
If a wish could change
Her fiery rage,
I'd ask her to cool down.
A year or two,
If I could get,
This end shall not be met.
The stony hills,
The shimmering lakes,
The ocean's grace,
The teasing breeze,
The moonlit sky,
The dripping rain,
The snow-capped
mountains may
Have the life
They were promised
once
By Mother Earth's
divine rays.

– **HARINI ASWIN, 13**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme 'Joyful June' to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on June 4.

This Week:

May days

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 On May 30, 1987, Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union. Who was the first Chief Minister of the newly formed state, who held that post for several terms?

Q2 Which suspension bridge was officially opened, on May 27, 1937, with over 200,000 people paying 25 cents each, on 'Pedestrian Day', to walk, run and roller-skate across it?

Q3 On May 20, 1902, which country that had ruled Cuba since January 1, 1899 ended its direct military administration, and transferred control to the just-established Republic of Cuba?

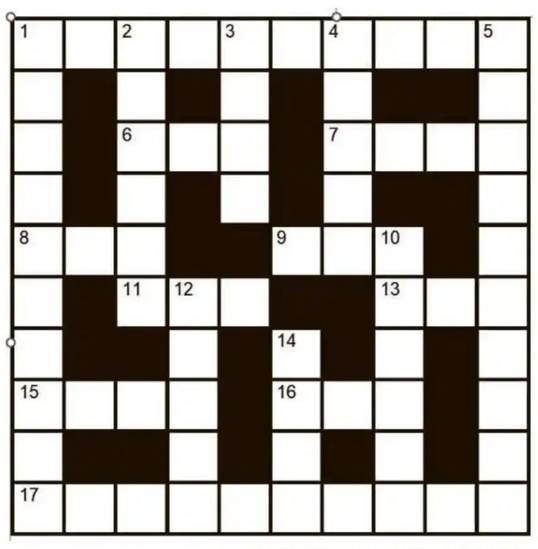
Scan the QR code
Or visit **bit.ly/DHopensesame** to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: May 12 is the UN International day of Plant ___.
Clue B: Abundance of valuable financial assets.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** What word derives from the scene of a Greek victory? Use these clues.
a) 490 BCE
b) Race
c) 42.195 km
d) Persians

WINNER'S NAMES: Aarav Jain (16), Bengaluru; Harshini Y Patel (12), Mysuru; Shree Gouri (11),Vijaynagar.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) Asia, A2) Raft, A3) Giant Otter, A4) Trade/Grade, A5) J K Rowling.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across

1 Large fruit with red, juicy flesh (10)
6 Prohibition (3)
7 Went away (4)
8 Baked product (3)
9 Consumed (3)
11 Part of the foot (3)
13 One, in cards (3)
15 Long-legged wading bird (4)
16 Prefix meaning single or one (3)
17 Small, sour fruit (10)

Down

1 Talking softly (10)
2 Pill (6)
3 Sounded a bell (4)
4 Two cubed (5)
5 Without necessity (10)
10 Less difficult (6)
12 Watering spot in a desert (5)
14 Electrical fitting that emits light (4)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Watermelon, 6 Ban, 7 Gone, 8 Pie, 9 Ate, 11 Toe, 13 Ace, 15 Ibis, 16 Uni, 17 Gooseberry.
Down: 1 Whispering, 2 Tablet, 3 Rang, 4 Eight, 5 Needlessly, 10 Easier, 12 Oasis, 14 Bulb.

Death is not the end of the story for Dr Santosh Anant Gaikwad. It marks the beginning of another journey, where he preserves animals and birds with astonishing realism for educational purposes. **Mrityunjay Bose** meets the sought-after taxidermist from Mumbai

After life comes taxidermy

Dr Santosh Anant Gaikwad has preserved over 500 birds and 150 fish, besides 15 big cats, one elephant, and one rhinoceros, through the art of taxidermy.

The tiger appears frozen mid-growl. A flamingo stands in impossible stillness, its curved neck looking elegant. A snow leopard watches with glassy intensity, seemingly ready to leap. Macaws cling to branches while a kingfisher appears poised to dive. Pangolins curl beside mouse deer, egrets, herons, jungle fowl, kites and cuckoos. Nearby, a lion and lioness stand side by side, their silent presence enough to stop anyone cold.

Seemingly alive, these animals and birds are, in fact, long dead. Today, they live on within the glass showcases of the Natural History Museum inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in Mumbai, preserved with astonishing realism through the art of taxidermy. And behind every feather, claw, whisker and scale lies the painstaking work of one man: Dr Santosh Anant Gaikwad. Though a self-taught taxidermist, he is perhaps the only practitioner in India who is working at this scale.

Step into his world, and the boundary between life and death begins to blur. "It is nothing but life after death... the cosmic life force," says the 53-year-old. For more than two decades, he has given around 700 dead creatures a 'second life', not as trophies, but as reminders of India's rich biodiversity and humanity's complicated relationship with the natural world. That, for him, is the true goal of taxidermy: to preserve animals and birds so future generations can study and remember them, including species gone extinct.

Five fields in one

Taxidermy is the art of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of animals, birds, fish, crustaceans, amphibians, and reptiles. The term comes from the ancient Greek words *taxis* (order or arrangement) and *derma* (skin), and translates to "arrangement of skin". "Through this art, you preserve the movement of the skin," Dr Santosh explains.

Taxidermy is an art, a science, and much more. It is a combination of cobbling, sculpture, carpentry, painting, and anatomy. "All five arts need to be mastered by a single person," he says with a constant smile. "Every step is difficult, every step is important... You cannot skip anything." Anything less, he repeats, will spoil the specimen. "We have to be careful even with strands of hair," he emphasises.

That makes it a time-consuming and labour-intensive job. Preparing a bird may take five to seven days, while mounting a large mammal, say a tiger, can take close to a month. But many see it as "dirty" work. Handling a carcass is challenging enough; then comes the stench during the skinning and tanning process.

Mysuru expertise

The decline of taxidermy in India has deeper roots. The craft once flourished during the colonial era, when British officers, hunters and naturalists preserved animals as scientific specimens and hunting trophies. By the 19th century, museums and princely collections across the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras presidencies displayed mounted tigers, leopards, deer, birds and reptiles. Among the most notable taxidermy firms was Van Ingen & Van Ingen in Mysuru. It was founded by a family of Dutch origin who were drawn to the region's dense forests and rich wildlife. Over nearly a century, the now-closed firm is estimated to have worked on tens of thousands of big cats, including tigers and leopards.

After Independence, the scene shifted. Stricter conservation laws, particularly the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, banned hunting and tightly regulated the possession of animal trophies and preserved specimens. Taxidermy also came to be associated with cruelty and colonial nostalgia.

But elsewhere, particularly in South Africa, the US and parts of Europe, taxidermy remains "very prominent". In some regions, regulated hunting and safari tourism sustain demand, while in others, interest is supported by museums, natural history traditions, and collector cultures. Taxidermy has also emerged as a contemporary art form; it is practised using ethically sourced materials and is displayed in exhibitions and competitions.

Big shoes to fill

Dr Santosh serves as an honorary wildlife taxidermist at SGNP, located in Borivali. But taxidermy is not his primary job. He is, in fact, a professor and head of anatomy at Mumbai Veterinary College (MVC), Parel.

His tryst with mounting animal skins began with curiosity and concern.

In 2003, as a practising veterinary doctor, he visited the Prince of Wales Museum, now the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, in Mumbai's Kala Ghoda. The wildlife exhibits stopped him in his tracks. "The animals, birds and fish looked so real I could not take my eyes off them," he recalls. They were the work of British naturalists and taxidermists, he would later learn.

At the time, he had no idea what taxidermy was, but through research, he realised it was an important field. "The next logical step was to find out where it was taught," he says. He wrote to museums, zoologists and natural history experts in Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai, only to be told that "those who knew the art had retired, grown too old or passed away". The absence of active experts troubled him. "Why should endangered animals and birds be burnt or buried after death?" he wondered.

A provision in the Wildlife Protection Act that allows the preservation of animal specimens for educational purposes became a turning point. "I could see light at the end of the tunnel. I decided I would do this myself," he says.

He began by reading books and online material. He also travelled to museums across the country to study mounted birds and animals (their form, proportions and techniques). But theory alone was not enough.

He went to cobblers for hands-on training. "Handling the shoemaker's hammer was difficult, and using the metal file required precision," he says. He then learnt sculpting and painting from art students, followed by woodwork from carpenters.

He also observed Ganapati idol makers at work ahead of Ganesha Chaturthi, and visited tanneries in Dharavi. Tanning is a critical step because "it prevents decomposition and turns animal hides into durable leather".

He fitted all this training into evenings after college work. "As far as anatomy was concerned, that was my subject," he says.

Home experiments

Now, Dr Santosh had to put what he had learnt into practice. "I began by bringing home dead chickens and practising on them, on our dining table," he recalls.

His family was supportive of his home laboratory, though his wife had occasional complaints. "I was using the refrigerator's deep-freeze compartment to store dead birds!" he admits. To ensure hygiene, he began wrapping chickens and pigeons in plastic "several times over".

Slowly, word spread and people began approaching him for taxidermy work. In the early years, he created several specimens for the Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, an agricultural university in Ratnagiri. From small birds, he moved on to fish — rohu, katla and mirgal — then to larger animals like spotted deer and sambar, and eventually to big cats including tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards and even a Siberian tiger. Except for one tigress from Madhya Pradesh that was found shot dead in a poaching case, he has worked only on wildlife that died of natural causes.

Throughout the conversation, Dr Santosh returns to one point. While museums today also display photographs and videos of wildlife, these cannot capture an animal's three-dimensional reality the way a properly stuffed specimen can.

Renewed interest

Taxidermy in India took a hit after wildlife conservation laws were introduced, but ironically, today it is once again in demand to support conservation efforts.

Dr Santosh says museums, national parks, zoos, and educational institutions now require preserved specimens for research and awareness. Even the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, advocates preserving 'Rashtriya Mrut Van Sampada', or dead national wildlife, for educational purposes. Forest departments across states now frequently collaborate with Dr Santosh.

In 2006, MVC, where he teaches, approached the Maharashtra Forest Department seeking permission for him to work on specimens from the Mumbai Zoo. The proposal took time to clear, and materialised two years later with a male leopard named Deepak. Wildlife taxidermy cannot be used for commercial purposes and requires official permissions. "The Chief Wildlife Warden is the nodal authority for granting permission under the Transactions and Taxidermy Rules," he explains.

Dr Santosh's big break came in 2009, when the then Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Bimal Mazumdar, approved the setting up of the Wildlife Taxidermy Centre inside SGNP. The only facility of its kind in India, it began in a garage space before it gradually expanded. The centre's establishment lent credibility to his work. "Forest departments began sending specimens regularly. In some cases, I travelled to other states and worked on-site," he recalls.

The centre itself feels like a world tucked away inside Mumbai's chaos. Outside, one can hear distant traffic, construction noise, and the endless rush of the Maximum City. Inside, there is no movement except the slow turning of fans and the occasional footsteps. The contrast is surreal — a city racing ahead, and a lone man quietly preserving fragments of vanishing wilderness.

Highlights

If one were to draw up a resume for Dr Santosh's taxidermy career, the highlights section would read: 500-plus birds, 150-plus fish, 15 big cats, one elephant and one rhinoceros.

Under "the most interesting case" would be Vimla. "She was a female elephant that died in Allapalli in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district in 2009. The situation there was very different then. Naxalism was at its peak," he recalls. The forest staff decided to preserve only the head and trunk due to the challenges of transporting the carcass, and by the time Dr Santosh arrived, the rest of the body had already begun to decompose."We did it, and it is now mounted at SGNP," he shares.

The "most challenging" case involved a rhinoceros in Assam. "We had to use a crane to lift it. It is the only time I have worked on a rhinoceros," he says.

One case he fondly recalls involves the preservation of a peacock at Mumbai's Raj Bhavan, now called Lok Bhavan."When I presented it to the then Governor K Sankaranarayanan, he got very emotional," he recalls.

Behind the scenes

Taxidermy involves nearly a dozen stages – collection of carcasses, skinning, tanning, taking precise body measurements, fleshing, preparing the skeleton for mounting, sculpting, moulding, casting, and finishing, which also includes painting. Of these, removing the skin and stitching it back are considered the most critical. "Removing the skin of a tiger may take a full day, and it must remain intact," he says. But it's the finishing work that breathes life back into a specimen. "The eyes are among the most important features. They speak," he explains.

He has no "favourite" creation, though. "Everything is a matter of dedication," he says, simply. For Dr Santosh, the end goal is perfection. The specimen should look as lifelike as possible, and the key lies in getting the anatomy right. "A tiger walking, hunting or resting is all different. The body shape changes with each activity," he explains.

As for assessing his own work, he leaves that to others. "It is difficult to say. But people tell me my creations look like the real animal," he says.

Has he ever accidentally damaged the skin of an animal he was tasked with restoring and preserving? "I do everything very carefully. I do not want an important resource to go to waste," is all he says. And it is not an inexpensive task. Preserving a tiger alone can cost close to Rs 50,000, with the expenses borne by the commissioning party.

According to him, the specimens he has created can last up to 70 years if preservation and maintenance protocols are followed properly. Only once did he have to redo some exhibits at SGNP after they were hit by floods.

Lessons for future

When Dr Santosh started as a taxidermist, he had no guru. At the peak of his career, he has no shishya. "I worry that this art (in India) will be lost with me," he says.

When he visits colleges to speak about taxidermy, he is largely met with scepticism. Students question the relevance of stuffed animals in a world of computer-generated graphics and AI visuals. Yet some also ask if there are any courses available. He has, thus, sent a proposal through MVC to the Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University in Nagpur to launch a one-month certificate course in taxidermy.

"Taxidermy forces humans to confront mortality, extinction and the fragile relationship between civilisation and nature. In a country where forests are shrinking, and wildlife habitats are increasingly under pressure, these preserved specimens become more than museum pieces — they become warnings, memories and lessons for future generations," he says.

As I walk out of his museum, the growl on the tiger's face, the glassy intensity in the snow leopard's eyes, and the flamingo caught in a moment of stillness remind me who we share this earth with.

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Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

When Tamil lyrics and Karnatik vocals meet jazz standards

Harini Iyer talks to Amanda V James about her two-year-old project, Tamil Jazz Collective

Harini Iyer was trained in Karnatik music but found herself drawn to jazz while living in Washington DC, USA. In 2014, she googled 'Karnatik jazz' on a whim and stumbled upon a musician who was blending the two genres.

After spending years collaborating with artiste Kriti Rao, she set up her own group, the Tamil Jazz Collective, in 2024. The project blends Karnatik music and Tamil lyrics with American jazz standards.

Harini and the Collective just wrapped up their Southeast Asia tour this month, with Colombo as its final leg.

The Collective is a rotating ensemble, with Harini (on vocals) and Sahib Singh (guitar), forming the core. Percussionists and bassists vary with every performance. In the past, they have collaborated with mridanga players, drummers, an upright bassist, and, at times, an electric bassist. The Collective has performed as a duo, trio, four-piece, and five-piece.

"There's an element of surprise on stage," says Harini, a graduate of Berklee College of Music, Boston. Her long-term goal is to perform with a full orchestral setup of 30 to 40 musicians.

The music aside, the Collective's USP lies in its translations of American jazz standards into Tamil. One of their early translations, 'Fly me to the moon', was straightforward, but 'It could happen to you' proved challenging. The song's references to spring and church bells as indicative of weddings had no direct Tamil equivalent. "I couldn't do it on my own," she admits, "because my Tamil vocabulary is colloquial and not poetic".

Since then, she has worked with poets and lyricists on translations.

Harini and her team have had a packed year, starting off at the BLR Hubba in January, followed by three tours.

Going forward, the collective plans to workshop new material, record an unreleased single they have been performing live, and work on a conceptual EP. A jazz standards album is also in the works.

Beyond the Collective, Harini is also commonly known by her alias, Ella Subramanyam, a play on the name of jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald, one of her longtime influences. What started as an inside joke has picked up enough traction and attention from both family and fans that she has begun treating it as a creative project of its own. "It started as a project to just find joy in making music," she says, adding that life on tour can make it easy to lose sight of that. Additionally, she also recently sang for an upcoming indie film directed by Sailesh Rathnakumar, and played the role of Draupadi in 'Rebel Rains', a Bharatanatyam play by Delhi-based Keelaka Dance Company, featuring Tamil jazz music.

Harini Iyer and her collective have just wrapped up a Southeast Asia tour. CREDIT: TAMILJAZZCOLLECTIVE.COM

A chilling warning from distant farmlands

Bedabrata Pain's documentary, 'Deja Vu,' is a haunting look at what capitalism did to American farmers, writes Pranati A S

Would you believe it if someone said many American children go to bed hungry? Well, that is the reported reality of rural America, which succumbed to the corporatisation of agriculture in the 1980s.

Bedabrata Pain's documentary film 'Deja Vu' offers a fresh perspective on the year-long farmers' protest against the three contentious farm bills passed in 2020. He traces what happened to American farmers after agriculture was corporatised in the country four decades ago.

According to Pain's documentary, four people set out on a 10,000-km journey through the farmlands of America — Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin — to understand what capitalism does to small farmers. Like India, 90% of US farmers are small-scale, according to the film.

Narrated by actor Ali Fazal, the film begins with footage from the 2020 farmers' protest, said to be the largest such protest ever. It features interviews with Indian and American farmers. Farmers describe how small towns in states like Missouri and Oklahoma, which once thrived on large dairy businesses, are now left with just two or three bars, a gun shop, a feed mill and a funeral home.

"There is no wealth left in rural America," they say.

The film, which has also been dubbed in Hindi and narrated by Naseeruddin Shah, highlights farmer suicides in the US, which are reportedly four times the national average. Farmers who had inherited farms passed down over many generations killed themselves because of mounting debt. A farmer explains corporate tactics: they undercut local businesses, create monopolies, and force farmers to sell to them.

An abandoned truck in a barn Pain's team visited in rural America.

Among the many interesting charts and info graphics was the cost breakdown of a burger. A restaurant charges 9 USD for a burger, while the ingredients cost less than 2 USD. How much does a farmer get? Just 26 cents. "The food that we eat today is in the hands of those who do not farm," a rancher says.

Pain's documentary also highlights how a US multinational food and beverage company exploited Indian farmers as a reminder of the consequences of contract farming. Remember the potato chips' contract controversy?

The snow-covered lanes of the American countryside through which the team drives reflect the chilling political landscape shaped by capitalism. "Those who don't learn from history are condemned to repeat those mistakes," Pain tells *Showtime*.

He juxtaposes the historical plight of American farmers with what Indian farmers could have faced had the farm bills not been repealed, making a powerful and poignant statement. It is no surprise what capitalism is capable of, yet when you listen to farmers, revered as 'annadata', speak of their plight, you are briefly left in disbelief at its haunting effects.

The film ends with American farmers expressing elation over Indian farmers protesting against the farm bills. One farmer even says there are not enough farmers left in the US to stage a protest. Pain believes the film should be shown to farmers, policymakers and students across India. "The film talks about the food security of India. You have a live example from another country about what happens when corporations take over farming," he says. However, when Pain approached universities, there was some reluctance and a need for "police permission".

"In today's world, when hate has been normalised through so many channels, and when you want to show something serious, to say that you need police permission sounds rather strange. Then there is this need for a CBFC certificate," he adds.

While making the film, Pain realised that one of the reasons why the farmlands in America turned rightward is because left liberals have stopped caring about economic insecurity. "The question of social justice is vital today, but if we don't focus on economic justice, I don't think we will find any real solution," he says.

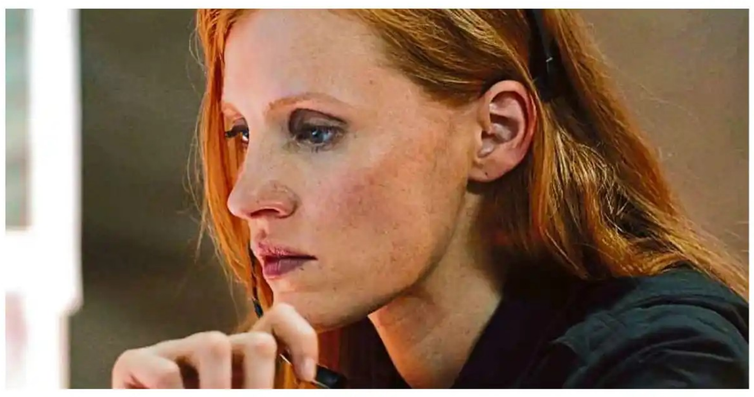
With male directors repeatedly reimagining the same brooding masculine hero, mainstream movies desperately need more women directors, writes Swaroop Kodur

Male gaze: Pop cinema's biggest crutch?

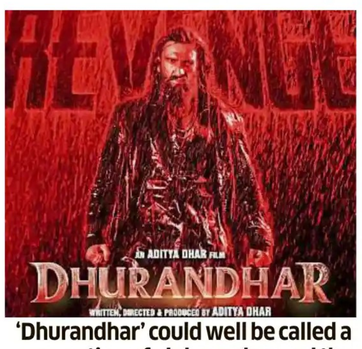
A film poster readily betrays the personality of mainstream Indian cinema today: a deep, dark colour palette; a strong dash of blood-red hue; a weapon such as a gun or a machete; the swirl of cigarette smoke; and all of it (and much more) orbiting a brooding, masculine figure.

In recent years, cinema has realised its ultra-capitalistic prowess, and in this pursuit, it has begun to imitate and repeat itself over and over again. Its male protagonists have become indistinguishable, its tone has taken on a deafening shrillness, and its purview has grown increasingly narrow and risk-averse.

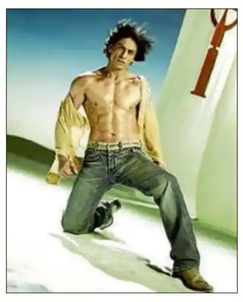
While the issue may appear to be the obvious lazy, trite approach, one cannot help but notice the glaring lack of representation behind the camera. In an ecosystem that has historically over-accommodated male directors, there is a consistent oversight when it comes to the deserving inclusion of women directors in the mainstream. The same system forgets that representation breeds newer and better perspectives, and perhaps there has never been a better time than now for gender diversity to steer things into control.



In 'Zero Dark Thirty', Kathryn Bigelow positions women firmly within male-dominated worlds, where men and women operate as equals.



'Dhurandhar' could well be called a convention of alpha males, and the poster illustrates it.



Farah Khan's collaborations with Shah Rukh Khan are etched forever into Hindi cinema's pop-cultural history.

From the very beginning, cinema designed for mass consumption has hinged on the male lead, and this trend is not going to change overnight. At the same time, there are enough historical instances of the same archetype being reimagined through a woman's lens and projected with the right mix of nuance and appeal.

It was Elaine May who cast John Cassavetes and Peter Falk — two emblematic American men — in the feverish mob-crime drama 'Mikey and Nicky' (1976) to explore complex themes of male vanity and loyalty. It was Sai Paranjpye who cryptically underlined male entitlement in her breezy, now cult-classic comedy-drama 'Chashme Baddoor' (1981), which features three young men and a woman as its principal cast.

The two films might not fit the conventional definition of popular cinema, but they nevertheless serve as compelling precedents for how women directors can imagine male characters as leads without unnecessarily eulogising them.

If one were to still stick to that definition, filmmakers like Kathryn Bigelow and Greta Gerwig come to mind immediately. The former, a two-time Oscar winner, has often tackled commercial genres that overtly carry nationalistic interests, but films such as 'Strange Days' (1995) and 'Zero Dark Thirty' (2011) reflect her ability to position women firmly within male-dominated worlds, creating narratives where men and women operate as equals rather than foils. In stark yet endearing contrast, Greta Gerwig's most recent achievement, 'Barbie', revealed a rather unique touch in its engagement with femininity, perfection, and patriarchy, as it went on to gross over 1.45 billion USD at the global box office.

In India's own context, the likes of Farah Khan and Zoya Akhtar have proven, winningly, that female directors are more than capable of handling big budgets as well as the biggest male superstars in the business. Farah Khan's collaborations with Shah Rukh Khan are etched forever into Hindi cinema's pop-cultural history, and she has carved out a distinctive place for herself in the realm of blockbuster directors. Zoya Akhtar, on the other hand, brought three popular leading men together in 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' and relayed a story of friendship that is sensitive, contemporary, entertaining, and highly box office friendly.

South Indian cinema has a vast vacuum to fill in terms of representation and fair opportunities for female directors. Noteworthy names such as Sudha Kongara ('Soorarai Pottru'), Anjali Menon ('Bangalore Days'), B V Nandini Reddy ('Ala Modalaindi', 'Oh! Baby'), and a few others crop up in this discussion. Yet, in a region where popular cinema continues to reinforce gender conventions, there is an urgent need for many more women storytellers to emerge. Geetu Mohandas's 'Toxic', in this vein, becomes a film to watch out for, given that it is a collaboration between the discerning director behind 'Liar's Dice' and 'Moothon' and superstar Yash, set in a masculinist terrain of gangsters and killers.

It is equally important to discuss on-screen representation, especially in the context of historical narratives. In recent years, the Indian mainstream has developed a great lust for stories of the past, both recent and bygone. But here, too, history feels encroached upon by and for the male perspective, which positions men as the spearheads of time and change while relegating women to the roles of bystanders and obeyers.

But if one lets factual reality and didacticism aside for a moment, historical or period filmmaking can be vibrantly employed to reclaim identities. Céline Sciamma uses a remote island in 18th-century France in 'Portrait of a Lady on Fire' to tell an intimate tale of desire between two women and the erasure of female artists from art history. In 'Priscilla' (2023), Sofia Coppola reimagines the Elvis Presley story through his wife's eyes, never letting Elvis dominate his own mythology. With 'Qala', lyricist-turned-filmmaker Anvita Dutt Guptan steps into the 1940s, where a female singer's ambition collides with emotional deprivation within a mother-daughter relationship.

Cinema remains one of the most powerful channels of expression, and its collective consciousness is in dire need of a revamp today. For that, diverse authorship, particularly through women filmmakers, must be backed financially and intellectually.

The stellar results of such progress are aplenty: Julie Ducournau, the Palme d'Or winner for 'Titane' (2021), is arguably the most dazzling and brutal voice working today; Coralie Fargeat took on ageism in Hollywood like few others with her visceral body-horror film 'The Substance', winning Best Screenplay at Cannes in 2024; Kiran Rao went against the mainstream tide with her sophomore film 'Laapataa Ladies' (2024) and delivered an enduring box office hit featuring an ensemble of newcomers.

In Indian cinema, the thematic possibilities that already exist should be tapped into — it is now well past time that we gave women directors the licence to reshape the discourse.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

Zoya Akhtar brought three popular leading men together in 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' and narrated a story of friendship that is sensitive, contemporary, entertaining, and box office friendly.

MOVIE REVIEWS

When the dark illuminates

SAVITHA KARTHIK

Vasudha Bharighat plays the old lady with a rooster.

★★★★½

Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know

Kannada (YouTube)

Director: Chidananda S Naik

Cast: Vasudha Bharighat, Jahangeer M S, Vishwas B S

There once lived an old woman who thought the sun wouldn't rise if her rooster didn't crow in the morning. That's a familiar bedtime story many have grown up on. What happens when the woman and her rooster disappear? And why does she disappear? That's the premise of Chidananda S Naik's 16-minute short film, which won the prestigious La Cinef award for Best Short at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.

Shot in the dark, the short relies heavily on the glow of kerosene lamps and flaming torches. It opens with a young man narrating the story of the day darkness fell on the village and what happened after — a telling frame shows us wet clothes on a line, dripping water. At a point in the film, the narrator and his father, Mallappa, are shown in the garb of beasts to fend off the wild animals of the dark, alluding to the terrors that darkness can bring, not just in a physical sense but a metaphorical one. The search for the grandmother turns into a device for the young man and his father to examine their own anxieties and fears. Meanwhile, the old woman grapples with her set of demons; her soliloquy is designed like a stage play.

The film ends with the old woman fading into darkness — the transition from a warm glow where we vaguely see her face to a cold blue night of nothingness stays with you long after the credits roll. The short lets you think about memory, erasure, and the stories we tell ourselves — therein lies its strength.

A captivating frame in the film.

Reading between the pleats

PRANATI A S

★★★½☆

Shape of Momo

Nepali (Theatres)

Director: Tribeny Rai

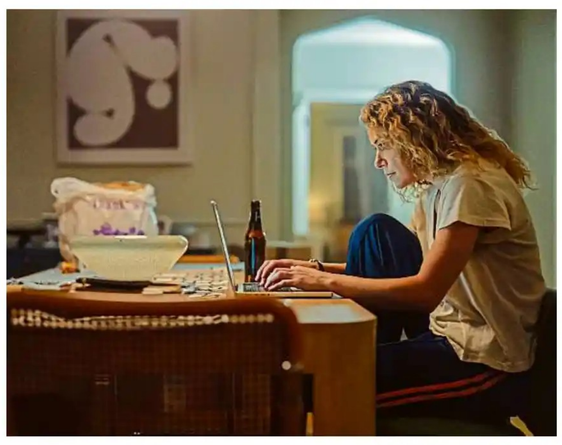
Cast: Gaumaya Gurung, Pashupati Rai, Bhanu Maya Rai

In a land where the 'round roti' is associated with patriarchal conditioning, 'Shape of Momo' came as a pleasant and relatable surprise. It is not always a roti that measures a woman's worth in the kitchen. In Sikkim, it is about how well a woman can shape the pleats of the momos. The making of a round Indian flatbread is synonymous with the making of a perfectly pleated dumpling. Patriarchy, at the end of the day, is adept at finding a way to confine women within the walls of a kitchen, turning cooking skills into something that must ultimately please the men at the dinner table.

The film, loosely based on director Tribeny Rai's life, follows Bishnu, a young woman who returns to her village in Sikkim after quitting her job in Delhi. Coming back home is not always a happy affair. For Bishnu, it means dealing with the societal norms she had once left behind all over again. She is constantly reminded that she is "not in Delhi anymore". At the same time, Tribeny does not treat Bishnu's life in Delhi as entirely liberating either, but merely as a space where she briefly experienced individuality — hinting that no place is truly liberating for women.

Films set in the mountains often tend to create overly aesthetic images. But in Tribeny's film, the camera prioritises Bishnu's emotional condition over picturesque beauty, creating a quiet, melancholic mood. Bishnu lying on a rock beside the river, for instance, is not framed just for the landscape, but to reflect her inner state of mind. The music adds to the film's immersive experience. One of the interesting metaphors Tribeny explores is a cat named Azadi that suddenly disappears one day.

'Shape of Momo' is best experienced on the big screen.



Tatiana Maslany plays the divorced single mom Paula.

Fact-checker meets maximum chaos

RASHMI VASUDEVA

★★★½☆

Maximum Pleasure Guaranteed

English (Apple TV)

Creators: David Rosen, Tami Sagher

Cast: Tatiana Maslany, Brandon Flynn, Jake Johnson

The title is inspired, and that's putting it mildly. Right from the first scene of this madcap romp (and don't take that word lightly), you tend to ask yourself two questions: Why would anyone do that? And what would I do if I were her?

Apple TV's latest thriller, 'Maximum Pleasure Guaranteed', is chaotic in all the right ways. Any major plot reveal would be an injustice to the creators, so let's just say the story follows Paula (Tatiana Maslany), a divorced single mom, an overzealous fact-checker at a local newspaper, part-time soccer coach and full-time nerd whose late-night shenanigans with a 'cam boy' spiral into blackmail, murder and conspiracy. This is a digital scam, but one on dope.

The series' greatest strength is the respect it gives to the fading art of painstaking fact-checking. Paula may lead a messy life, but her mind is anything but. She questions every illogical turn, every inconsistency and this 'nit-picking' helps her escape the sinister traps laid before her. Tatiana Maslany is delightfully loopy as Paula, and indeed, she is so convincingly frazzled that you begin to sympathise with her ex-husband. Her young daughter has enough sass to match her mad mother and is a joy to watch whenever she appears on screen.

Mind you, this is a dark thriller, but one that is totally kooky at heart, so do not go expecting anything too sombre or realistic.

Fourth edition of PV film awards on June 19

▸ The fourth edition of the Prajavani Kannada Cine Sammana will be held on June 19.

More than 150 films released in 2025 will be considered. A total of 15 awards will be presented in the main category and four in the popular category. In addition, four awards will recognise films that serve as an inspiration for the film industry, and a senior artiste will be honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award'.

In the Editors' Choice category, four artistes will be recognised as 'Cinema Dhruva Taare', 'Nava Taare' and 'Best Achievement of the Year'.

All nominations will be announced by tomorrow.

Quick takes

Mirror, mirror on the ceiling

▸ Recently, an old cringe-chuckle-worthy rumour about Hrithik Roshan resurfaced for no apparent reason.

Apparently, Hrithik channels the Evil Queen from 'Snow White' every night. Only, his mirror is fixed to his bedroom ceiling because, umm...he wants his own face to be the first and the last thing he sees before falling asleep and waking up. While one can imagine an actor with his kind of looks being more self-obsessed than mere mortals, this story feels like a stretch, even for Bollywood standards.

What is true, though, is that Hrithik has famously spent hours in front of mirrors practising his diction, posture, and expressions.

Also, he reportedly has a quote printed backwards on a wall in his house. Shh..stop assuming stuff. Just reverse psychology, okay.

"Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is the Orange Cap holder, and that doesn't come from doing it just once or against a couple of teams. He's done it consistently over the last two months.

ANIL KUMBLE, INDIAN SPIN LEGEND

TITANS WIN: Opener's 104, Sudharsan's 58 take Gujarat to final against RCB

Gill masterclass floors Royals

SIDNEY KIRAN
MULLANPUR, DHNS

The future star of Indian cricket hogged the limelight for an umpteenth time with an innings of exceptional quality, but the superstar of this generation stole the show in the end with a genius knock to power Gujarat Titans into the final of the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

After 15-year-old wunderkind Sooryavanshi revealed a different facet of his game with an beautifully constructed 96 (47b, 8x4, 7x6) to propel Rajasthan to a competitive 214/6 in Qualifier 2, India's Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill stamped his class with a majestic 104 (53b, 15x4, 3x6) as 2022 champions Gujarat romped to a crushing 7-wicket win at the Mullanpur Stadium. Gujarat will take on defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the final in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

From the moment Gujarat strode to the field, they meant business. Having watched Sooryavanshi cause unprecedented mayhem on Wednesday in the Eliminator clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad, they came out with a definitive plan to curb the prodigy who has taken the cricketing world by storm with his daredevilry.

Unlike Sunrisers, who opted to bowl full to Sooryavanshi and got smashed all over the park, Gujarat focussed on banging it in short and at raw pace. Opening pacers Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada stuck nicely to the plan and dismissed Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel inside the second over to put Rajasthan instantly on the back foot.

Gujarat also made life difficult for Sooryavanshi. They offered nothing in his hitting arc — full-length balls around the off and leg stumps. Much of it was short, directed at his rib cage and little wide. Although Sooryavanshi intended to hit them, the pace was high, and he struggled to middle them at the beginning of his innings.

The two early wickets also forced the teenager to recalibrate his plans, considering how heavily Rajasthan had banked on him to do the scoring. It was a real test of character for him, given the fact that this was a do-or-die game, but the southpaw showed there's more to his batting than just bang-bang. He curbed his all-out aggression and the penchant for sixes; instead, he tried scoring boundaries and blending caution with big shots.

The Bihari also found a solid ally in 37-year-old Jadeja, the master of many a big-stage battle. The school kid and the teacher together went about the repair job beautifully. They took a little time to steady the rocking ship but slowly started to switch gears to seize the momentum and put the pressure back on Gujarat. Just when the tide was on their side, an unlikely elbow injury to Jadeja that resulted in the southpaw retiring hurt after the eighth over derailed Rajasthan. Gujarat used that to pull things back with some quick wickets, but Sooryavanshi continued to take the fight to them.

Gujarat seemed shaken that their best-laid plans were torn apart by Sooryavanshi. But they didn't exhibit any of it when openers Gill and Sai Sudharsan (58) walked in to bat. Yes, scores over 200 have been chased successfully more this season, but this was the Qualifier 2, and pressure was high considering there's no room for error. For Gill and Sudharsan, it was like child's play.

The two main batters for the franchise went about their job in workmanlike precision. They stuck to their classical style but didn't stop themselves from playing the big shots in the game-changing 167-run stand. Gill, who was unceremoniously dropped from the India T20 World Cup squad, yet again showed why he deserves to be in the shortest format with an innings for the ages.

Shubman Gill celebrates after scoring a 53-ball 104 during Gujarat Titans' seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the Qualifier 2 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh on Friday. REUTERS

Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi dazzled yet again with a 47-ball 96 which went in vain. AFP

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Prasidh b Siraj 1 (2b), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Prasidh b Rabada 96 (47b, 8x4, 7x6), Dhruv Jurel c Gill b Rabada 7 (6b, 1x4), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 45 (35b, 5x4, 1x6), Riyan Parag c Rabada b Holder 11 (6b, 1x4, 1x6), Dasun Shanaka c Buttler b Holder 3 (9b), Jofra Archer c Buttler b Prasidh 7 (4b), Donovan Ferreira (not out) 38 (11b, 2x4, 4x6). Extras (W-6). **TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 20 overs) 214.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-2 (Jaiswal), 2-9 (Jurel), 2-82 (Jadeja, retd hurt), 3-101 (Parag), 4-109 (Shanaka), 5-118 (Archer), 6-172 (Sooryavanshi).

Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 4-0-42-1 (w-1), Kagiso Rabada 4-0-35-2, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-42-1, Washington Sundar 2-0-23-0, Jason Holder 4-0-27-2 (w-1), Rashid Khan 2-0-45-0.

GUJARAT TITANS: Sai Sudharsan (hit wicket) Brijesh 58 (32b, 8x4, 1x6), Shubman Gill lbw Archer 104 (53b, 15x4, 3x6), Jos Buttler (not out) 9 (9b), Washington Sundar c Ferreira b Burger 16 (9b, 2x4, 1x6), Rahul Tewatia 17 (9b, 2x4, 1x6). Extras (B-4, W-11) 15. **TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 18.4 overs) 219.**

Fall of wickets: 1-167 (Sudharsan), 2-182 (Gill), 3-201 (Sundar).

Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-45-1 (w-1), Nandre Burger 4-0-35-1 (w-3), Brijesh Sharma 3.4-0-44-1 (w-3), Tushar Deshpande 3-0-34-0, Yash Raj Punja 2-0-29-0, Ravindra Jadeja 2-0-28-0.

Result: GT won by 7 wkts.

PoM: Shubman Gill. **Next's match:** Final (RCB vs GT, Ahmedabad, May 31).

Pant steps down as LSG captain

NEW DELHI, PTI

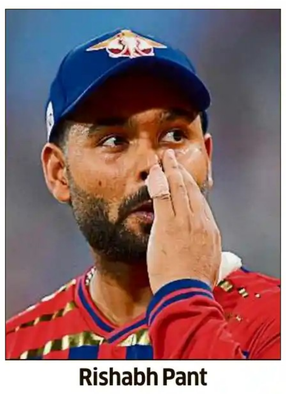
Star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been relieved of Lucknow Super Giants' captaincy after a disastrous IPL season where they finished last among 10 teams.

As a batter, it turned out to be a woeful season where he got only 312 runs in 14 innings. There had been talks which indicated that Pant was set to lose captaincy, something which was reiterated by LSG's Director of Cricket Tom Moody.

"Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) wish to formally announce that Rishabh Pant has requested to be relieved of his captaincy duties with the franchise, and the franchisee has accepted his request with immediate effect," the franchise said in an official statement.

"Rishabh approached the franchisee with this request and we have respectfully accepted it," Moody was quoted as saying in the media release.

"These decisions are never easy. We are grateful for everything Rishabh has brought to this dressing room as captain. Our focus now is on the collective rebuilding and restructuring to reach the best standards," the former Australian all-rounder added.



Rishabh Pant

Sat-Chi in semis; Sindhu loses

SINGAPORE, PTI: India's PV Sindhu lacked the consistency required to trouble world No. 1 An Se Young **(in pic)** for sustained periods, going down in the quarterfinals but ace men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty moved into the semifinals with a hard-fought win at the Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Friday.

The two-time Olympic medallist showed flashes of her attacking best and managed to put the Korean under pressure in phases, but An's superior control, movement and ability to win the crucial points ensured another comfortable 21-17, 21-14 victory.

Satwik and Chirag, the Asian Games champion and fourth seeds here, came from a game down to get the better of Malaysia's Khai Xing Kang and Aaron Tai 19-21, 21-17, 21-13 in a gruelling contest that lasted one hour and five minutes.

The Indian pair will now take on top seeds Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of Korea, who defeated Japanese combination of Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi 21-19 21-18.

Debutant Nandani shines after Rodrigues-Yastika show

Jemimah Rodrigues.
PTI FILE PHOTO

CHELMSFORD (UK), PTI

Jemimah Rodrigues and Yastika Bhatia struck fluent half-centuries before debutant pacer Nandani Sharma starred with the ball as an experimental India defeated England by 38 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match women's T20I series here.

Playing without regular captain Harmanpreet Kaur, India recovered from a disastrous start to post 188 for seven and then restricted England to 150 for eight at the County Ground here on Thursday.

This is India's final series before next month's T20 World Cup that begins on June 12.

Stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana got out for a golden duck, while her opening partner Shafali Verma capped a forgettable three-ball two with Lauren Bell (3/34) giving a fiery start to England after they opted to bowl.

But Rodrigues made 69 off 40 balls (10x4, 1x6) and Yastika marked her return to the format after two years with a brisk 54 off 40 deliveries, her maiden T20I fifty. She smashed nine fours and a six.

Yastika and Rodrigues counter-attacked brilliantly, stitching together a 126-run stand for the third wicket off just 76 balls to turn the innings around.

In reply, England never quite recovered after losing Sophia Dunkley (16) and Alice Capsey (6) inside four overs.

Amy Jones kept the chase alive with a fighting 67 off 48 balls, sharing a 64-run stand with Heather Knight (21).

During her knock, Knight became England women's most-capped player across formats with 310 appearances, overtaking Charlotte Edwards.

However, debutant Nandani turned the game decisively in India's favour.

The 24-year-old pacer scalped Jones in the 16th over before removing Dani Gibson off the next ball and then dismissing Wong to finish with impressive figures of 3/34.

Brief scores: India: 188/7 in 20 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 69, Yastika Bhatia 54; Lauren Bell 3-34) bt England: 150/7 in 20 overs (Amy Jones 67; Nandani Sharma 3-34, Kranti Gaud 2-24) by 38 runs. **PoM**: Jemimah Rodrigues; **Next match**: May 30 (Bristol).

BCCI bans smart sunglasses

NEW DELHI, PTI

The BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit has barred the usage of smart sunglasses by players and match officials in the ongoing IPL, citing its advanced communication features which allow live streaming and video calling through mobile data or Wi-Fi networks.

In an advisory to the league's franchises, the BCCI ACSU has stated that it has been noticed that some companies are marketing and selling smart sunglasses to players and support staff.

"Kindly note that these devices are equipped with advanced communication features, including live streaming, sending and receiving text messages, as well as audio and video calling capabilities through mobile data or Wi-Fi networks," the Board said.

"Accordingly, under the PMOA Minimum Standards, such goggles/glasses are classified both as an 'Audio/Video Recording Device' and a 'Communication Device'.

"It is hereby notified that the possession and/or use of 'Smart Goggles' is strictly prohibited within the Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA)," it added.

Players are prohibited from using communication devices in the designated PMOAs and in the ongoing edition Rajasthan Royals Romi Bhinder copped a Rs one lakh fine and a warning after being caught on camera using a phone in the team dugout during a match.

In its latest advisory, the Board urged players and officials to deposit smart sunglasses as well before entering the PMOA and warned of action in case of non-compliance.

Suruchi defends Munich gold, Esha wins silver

MUNICH, PTI: It was double delight for India in the ISSF World Cup here on Friday as Suruchi Inder Singh struck gold and Esha Singh won silver in the women's 10m air pistol, helping the country rise to the top of the medal tally.

Suruchi shot 242.1 to defend the gold she won last year at the Olympic Shooting range, while her senior teammate Esha shot 241.2 to settle for silver. Korean Choo Gaeun won bronze.

Tomar disqualified

In two men's events on the roster, India missed out, one in very unfortunate circumstances. In the men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar shot a 592 to qualify in sixth place, but was disqualified after his weapon was deemed to have discrepancies in dimension in a random post competition check.

Suruchi Inder Singh

Fonseca shock for Djokovic

Russian teen Andreeva, four-time champ Swiatek move into last-16

PARIS, AFP

Iga Swiatek and Mirra Andreeva booked their places in the last 16 of the French Open on Friday, while third seed Novak Djokovic was knocked out by 28th seed Joao Fonseca in a five-set thriller.

After world No. 1 Jannik Sinner's shock exit on Thursday, all eyes were on the Serbian 24-time Grand Slam champ Djokovic to hunt down his 25th major. However, in yet another unpredictable turn of events, Brazilian 19-year-old Fonseca scored a come-from-behind 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 7-5 victory to advance to the fourth round.

Earlier in the day, four-time women's champion Swiatek beat Magda Linette 6-4, 6-4 to begin play on Court Philippe Chatrier, with temperatures set to climb to 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) later in the day.

Third seed Swiatek dug herself out of an early 2-0 hole against the 35th-ranked Linette, who won their most recent meeting at Miami in March, to set up an intriguing match-up with the in-form Marta Kostyuk.

Kostyuk, the 15th seed, continued her fine run with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic.

She is unbeaten in 15 matches on clay this season following titles in Madrid and Rouen.

"Marta is having a great season. She always had a game to play well," said Swiatek.

"So good for her. But I'm going to focus on myself, prepare tactically, as before any other match, and we'll see."

Later, Russian teenager Andreeva swept into the last 16 with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Czech 27th seed Marie Bouzkova.

The eighth-seeded Andreeva goes on to face either 2023 French Open runner-up Karolina Muchova or Jil Teichmann on Sunday for a place in the quarterfinals.

Andreeva's best Grand Slam run came at Roland Garros in 2024 when she reached the semifinals.

Brazil's Joao Fonseca celebrates after knocking out Serbia's Novak Djokovic in the third round of French Open in Paris on Friday. AFP

Bhambri, Balaji lose

India's N Sriram Balaji and his Brazilian partner Marcelo Demoliner notched a commanding second-round win in the men's doubles of the French Open here on Friday.

Balaji and Demoliner took one hour and 27 minutes to brush aside the challenge of Jakob Schnaitter and Mark Wallner of Germany 7-5, 6-2.

But, it was the end of road in men's doubles for India's Yuki Bhambri and his partner Michael Venus of New Zealand, who suffered a straight-set defeat to the Italian pair of Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori.

Bhambri and Venus lost 3-6, 4-6 in their second round match that lasted one hour and twenty minutes.

Results (prefix denotes seeding): Men's III round: 11-Andrey Rublev (Rus) bt Nuno Borges (Por) 7-5, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/2); 28-Joao Fonseca (Bra) bt 3-Novak Djokovic (Srb) 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 7-5. **Women's III round**: 15-Marta Kostyuk (Ukr) bt Viktorija Golubic (Sui) 6-4, 6-3; 3-Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt Magda Linette (Pol) 6-4, 6-4; 8-Mirra Andreeva (Rus) bt 27-Marie Bouzkova (Cze) 6-4, 6-2; Jil Teichmann (Sui) bt 10-Karolina Muchova (Cze) 6-1, 7-5; 18-Sorana Cirstea (Rom) bt Solana Sierra (Arg) 6-0, 6-0; Wang Xiyu (Chn) bt Yuliia Starodubtseva (Ukr) 6-3, 7-5.

Karnataka lift junior national basketball title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Displaying commendable teamwork, the Karnataka men's team stitched together an 83-75 win over Haryana in the final to be crowned champions of the 76th Junior National Basketball Championship at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Puducherry on Friday.

While Anshul and Samrath Mannur scored 19 points each, Adithya Shenoy and Vijayendra's 18 and 14-point efforts respectively helped the Harshan Yatish-led side cross the finish line.

For Haryana, Rahul turned out to be their top-scorer for his 27-point contribution which in the end went in vain.

There was more joy for the winners as Adithya was named the most valuable player of the tournament.

K Govindaraj, President FIBA Asia and Karnataka Olympic Association, congratulated the team and announced a cash prize of Rs 7.5 lakh along with and other incentives for the victorious state side.

Result: Final: Men: Karnataka: 83 (Anshul 19, Samrath Mannur 19, Adithya Shenoy 18, Vijayendra 14, Harshan Yathish 11) bt Haryana: 75 (Rahul 27, Sachin 16). **Most valuable player:** Adithya Shenoy (Karnataka).

A jubilant Karnataka team pose with the winners' trophy after defeating Haryana in the final of the 76th Junior National Basketball Championship in Puducherry on Friday. STANDING (from left): Vaibhav Gowda, Divith Shenav, Adithya Shenoy, Sachin Belavadi (coach), Rajive (manager), Harshan (captain), Umashankar (coach), Anish Ayyappan, Vijayeendra, Samarth Mannur. KNEELING: Siddhartha, Sanket, Mohd Arshad, Anshul, Dev Charan.

SC clears Vinesh's participation

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday allowed wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the selection trials for the Asian Games, refusing to stay a Delhi High Court order that had paved the way for her comeback.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe declined to grant a stay on the High Court's direction while hearing a petition filed by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), challenging the order.

The apex court, however, expressed reservations about the approach adopted by the Delhi High Court.

WFI draws line

In another development, WFI deciding to allow Vinesh to compete only in the women's 50kg category in the Asian Games selection trials, reports PTI.

According to WFI sources, federation officials waited for confirmation on her preferred weight division after Supreme Court paved the way for her participation in Saturday's trials but did not receive any communication from the two-time World Championship medallist till late Friday evening.

Vinesh will have to at least reduce her weight to 51kg if she is to compete in the 50kg.

IN BRIEF

DYES Kudige seal final berth

▸ Yashika KK netted a hat-trick as DYES Kudige beat Hockey Belgaum 4-0 to move into the final of the Hockey Karnataka U-16 women's tournament on Friday, reports DHNS.

Results: DYES Hassan: 2 (Saraswathi HY 5th, GH Anushya 23rd) bt SAI STC, Madikeri: 2 (Neelamma NR 15th, Shaik Sumiya 30th min) 4-2 via shootout; DYES Kudige: 4 (Yashika KK 10th, 37th, 46th, Pavana 39th) bt Hockey Belgaum: 0.

Miracle Star for main event

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

James Mckeown-trained Miracle Star, to be ridden by Suraj Narredu, will be the favourite to win the Chettinad Stud Plate, the feature event of the races here on Saturday. The first race starts at 2.00 pm.

1. The Udhagamandalam Plate -- 1200M: Ark Emperor 1, Perfect Dream 2, Haniel 3.
2. The Chettinad Stud Plate -- 1600M: Miracle Star 1, Promiseofthefuture 2, Golden Thunder 3.
3. The Elite Force Plate -- 1400M: Knotty Emperor 1, The Archer 2, Born To Rise 3.
4. The Marilingaiah Memorial Trophy -- 1200M: Refined Aggression 1, Thessalian 2, Splendid Dream 3.
5. The Sir M Visvesvaraya Memorial Trophy -- 1400M: Money Bags 1, Efficacy 2, Rodney 3.
6. The Romantic Dancer Plate -- 1400M: Bulletproof 1, Lena 2, Prince Of Wales 3.
7. The Prince Khartoum Plate -- 1200M: Stravinsky 1, Corinthian 2, Storm Shadow 3.
Day's best: Ark Emperor. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & , 7. **Mini jackpot:** 4, 5, 6 & 7.
I treble: 2, 3 & 4.
II treble: 5, 6 & 7.

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL

Champions League Final: PSG vs Arsenal (9:30 pm). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

BADMINTON

Singapore Open: Semifinals (9:30 am). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1, JioHotstar.**

TENNIS

Roland Garros: Third Round (2:30 pm). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

The contrasting coaching styles of Paris Saint-Germain's Luis Enrique (left) and Arsenal's Mikel Arteta promise an engaging Champions League final in Budapest on Saturday. AFP

Arsenal aim to dethrone PSG

Gunners' defence will be tested against Parisians' star-studded attack

BUDAPEST, AFP

Arsenal seek to finally conquer Europe by wresting the Champions League crown from holders Paris Saint-Germain, who are themselves targeting back-to-back titles in Budapest on Saturday.

Luis Enrique's French champions are favourites to defend the trophy and establish an era of dominance in their post-superstar age, with heavyweight attackers Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe departed.

Homing in on a career third Champions League trophy as a coach, the Asturian cleaned house after arriving in 2023, and created a cohesive, hard-working and brilliant PSG side in his image.

Enrique took them to the semis in his first season, then past Arsenal last year in the final four before crushing Inter Milan to claim the Parisians a first European Cup -- 14 years and well beyond 1 billion euros ($1.2bn) spent since Qatar Sports Investments took over the club.

By contrast Arsenal's team has been slow-cooked over nearly seven years by Mikel Arteta, without the overwhelming financial muscle of PSG or domestic rivals Manchester City.

Last summer they recognised their developing team was finally ready to triumph and the Gunners reinforced in key areas.

It brought a first Premier League title in 22 years and a return to Europe's grandest stage after two decades away, following their 2006 final defeat by Barcelona in Paris.

Both teams arrive in Hungary with different reputations in the eyes of the world for the way they play.

PSG are the tournament's top scorers with 44 goals, while Arsenal are the team that has conceded fewest, shipping just six and are unbeaten.

Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele, likely to be fit after a calf problem, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Desire Doue lead a thrilling attacking cast for a PSG side that edged Bayern Munich 6-5 in the semi-finals.

Beyond the class of winger Bukayo Saka, Arsenal stand out more for their grit and defensive discipline, with centre-back pairing Gabriel and William Saliba their regular stand-out performers, as well as midfield powerhouse Declan Rice.

Arteta's team will embrace the underdog role, keeping the champions at bay and leaning on their superior set-piece quality.

Despite their contrasting styles, both sides have emerged as the competition's outstanding teams this season, shaped by two of the game's most demanding coaches.

Luis Enrique showed his tactical flexibility in the second leg against Bayern and never likes his team to be predictable.

"I think we're talking about two great teams -- along with Bayern Munich, the three best teams in Europe," the Asturian coach told UEFA.

"We'll have to adapt to play and defend in a different way compared to how we usually do if we want to get the better of them."

Along with Dembele the PSG right-back Achraf Hakimi is also expected to win his fitness battle for the game, while Arsenal defender Jurrien Timber is doubtful with a groin problem.

The French side's regular starters have largely played far fewer minutes than their Arsenal counterparts this season.

PSG play fewer matches in general and despite that, Enrique has rotated and rested players regularly.

Road to Champions League final

Stage	PSG	Arsenal
League stage	11th place	1st place
Playoffs	Monaco (5-4)	--
Round of 16	Chelsea (8-2)	Bayer Leverkusen (3-1)
Quarters	Liverpool (4-0)	Sporting Lisbon (1-0)
Semifinal	Bayern Munich (6-5)	Atletico Madrid (2-1)

Live on Sony Sports Network, 9.30 pm

Messi named Argentina captain

BUENOS AIRES, AFP

Lionel Messi

Lionel Messi will captain Argentina at the World Cup, national coach Lionel Scaloni announced Thursday as he unveiled his 26-man squad.

Messi, 38, had not previously confirmed he would play in what will be a record-breaking sixth tournament for the Argentine superstar.

But it had been widely assumed the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner would again lead Argentina, four years after lifting the trophy in Qatar.

As well as confirming Messi's presence, Thursday's announcement notably excluded Real Madrid's Franco Mastantuono from the Argentina squad.

Eighteen-year-old Mastantuono is considered one of the brightest prospects in Argentine football.

The largest ever World Cup, co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, kicks off June 11.

Argentina's first match will be five days later against Algeria in Kansas City.

Messi has been at the heart of an injury scare in recent days, with his club side Inter Miami this week saying medical tests diagnosed him with muscle fatigue in his left hamstring.

The Major League Soccer club had provided no clear timetable for Messi's return after his abrupt exit from Miami's 6-4 victory over Philadelphia in the 73rd minute on Sunday.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Emiliano Martinez, Geronimo Rulli, Juan Musso.
Defenders: Gonzalo Montiel, Nahuel Molina, Lisandro Martinez, Nicolas Otamendi, Leonardo Balerdi, Cristian Romero, Facundo Medina, Nicolas Tagliafico.
Midfielders: Leandro Paredes, Rodrigo de Paul, Exequiel Palacios, Enzo Fernandez, Alexis MacAllister, Giovani Lo Celso, Valentin Barco.
Attackers: Lionel Messi, Nicolas Paz, Thiago Almada, Nicolas Gonzalez, Julian Alvarez, Giuliano Simeone, Lautaro Martinez, Jose Manuel Lopez.

Gukesh sinks to bottom

OSLO, PTI: World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen **(in pic)** returned to winning ways with a crushing victory over reigning classical world champion D Gukesh, sending the young Indian to the bottom of the standings, while R Praggnanandhaa stayed second after beating Vincent Keymer in Armageddon at the Norway Chess here.

Seven-time Norway Chess champion Carlsen, who had endured a sluggish start to the tournament, climbed from last to sole fourth with 4.5 points after bagging three full points, while a dejected Gukesh slipped away quietly from the playing hall through a side exit, leaving scores of young fans waiting for autographs.

Going into Friday's rest day, Alireza Firouzja remained comfortably on top despite suffering his first defeat of the event.

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Whitefield Honda celebrates launch and first delivery of Honda City - All-New Vibe

(Left to right) Whitefield Honda's Managing Director Mini Suri, and Honda Cars India Ltd's Vice President Kunal Behl and President Takashi Nakajima congratulate Jishna Reddy and Tanvi Reddy the proud first owners of the just-unveiled Honda City – All New Vibe.

Whitefield Honda's Managing Director Mini Suri (right) and Business Head M Ramdas (left) felicitate and Honda Cars India's President Takashi Nakajima.

Whitefield Honda unveiled the much-anticipated Honda City - All-New Vibe on May 22, 2026, marking a new chapter in premium automotive innovation and customer experience. The grand launch event brought together distinguished guests, customers, department heads and automobile enthusiasts, celebrating Honda's latest offering that combines sophisticated design, advanced technology and enhanced driving comfort.

Continuing the celebrations, the dealership conducted the ceremonial first customer delivery of the new Honda City on May 27, 2026. The ceremony was graced by senior leadership from Honda Cars India Ltd, including President Takashi Nakajima, Director – Marketing and Sales Yujiro Sugino, Advisor to the President Tasuku Tanaka and Vice President Kunal Behl, along with Whitefield Honda's Managing Director Mini Suri and Business Head M Ramdas, making the occasion a memorable milestone for both Whitefield Honda and Honda enthusiasts across Bengaluru.

The all-new Honda City has already attracted attention for its premium features and intelligent technology. Its key highlights include fully-ventilated front seats, a 10.1-inch floating-type audio system with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, and an integrated 360-degree camera system along with Honda's intelligent Left Lane Watch Camera for enhanced safety and driving convenience.

(Left to right) Honda Cars India Ltd's Advisor to the President Tasuku Tanaka, Director – Marketing and Sales Yujiro Sugino, President Takashi Nakajima and Whitefield Honda's Managing Director Mini Suri celebrate the launch of Honda City – All-New Vibe.

Pics: R Rajgopal

Honda Cars India Ltd's President Takashi Nakajima (second from left) strikes a pose with the just-released Honda City – All New Vibe, along with (left to right) Whitefield Honda's Business Head M Ramdas, Managing Director Mini Suri and Head of Finance & HRD Gopalakrishnan P.

Guests at the event were given an exclusive opportunity to experience the vehicle firsthand and explore its refined interiors, upgraded features and modern styling. The celebration reflected Whitefield Honda's commitment to delivering premium automotive experiences backed by trusted service and customer satisfaction.

With the successful launch and first delivery of the Honda City – All-New Vibe, Whitefield Honda invites customers and automobile enthusiasts across Bengaluru to visit the showroom and experience Honda's latest sedan through exclusive demonstrations and test drives.

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WORLD MILK DAY - JUNE 1

The fats and proteins in milk give desserts a rich, well-rounded taste

WHITE FACT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

- Earthen bowls used for serving phirni are not just traditional - they absorb excess moisture and help the dessert thicken while adding a subtle earthy flavour.
- Many creamy pasta sauces rely on milk rather than cream for richness, making them lighter while still silky in texture.
- Adding milk while kneading dough can make roti, naan and paratha softer and more flavourful.

- Chefs often soak onions in milk before cooking to soften their sharpness and bitterness.
- Milk helps create the golden-brown crust on baked dishes because its proteins and sugars caramelise beautifully in heat.
- Milk is a superfood that's rich in nutrition. It is valued for its dense concentration of essential macro and micronutrients.

White magic!

Deepa Natarajan Lobo presents some creamy, sweet indulgences to celebrate the goodness of milk

From that comforting cup of morning chai to rich, celebratory desserts shared during festivals and family gatherings, milk is an inseparable part of our daily lives. Naturally-packed with calcium, protein, vitamins and essential nutrients, it has long been valued as a nourishing ingredient that supports strength, energy and overall wellness. Its creamy texture and natural sweetness also make it one of the most versatile ingredients in the kitchen, effortlessly transforming simple recipes into indulgent creations.

With June 1 marking World Milk Day, it's the perfect moment to rediscover the quiet magic of milk through comforting, contemporary desserts. From the slow-cooked richness of a traditional phirni to the silky sophistication of a miso caramel flan, these recipes reflect milk's timeless ability to transform into something deeply indulgent. Across kitchens and cultures, it continues to inspire chefs and home cooks alike with its versatility and warmth.

So, gather your ingredients, lean into the joy of cooking and bring these delicious milk-based creations to life at home.

Rice Phirni

By Varun Singh, Brand Chef

PIC COURTESY: OYE KAKE

What you need

- Two litres of milk
- 300 gm of sugar
- 250 gm of mawa or khowa
- 100 gm of rice
- A few strands of saffron
- Half a gm of cardamom powder
- Two drops of rose water

Preparation

Wash and soak the rice for 30 minutes. Drain and grind into a coarse paste. In a heavy-bottomed pan, bring the milk to a gentle boil. Add the ground rice paste and cook on a low flame, stirring continuously to avoid lumps. Once the rice begins to cook and the milk thickens slightly, add the saffron strands. Add sugar and continue stirring until fully dissolved.

Crumble the mawa or khowa into the mixture and cook further until the phirni turns rich, creamy and smooth. Stir in the cardamom powder and rose water. Remove from heat and pour into earthen bowls or serving dishes. Chill for a few hours before serving.

Serve cold, garnished with saffron strands, chopped pistachios or almonds for a festive touch.

Saffron and Rose Tres Leches

By Abhishek Choudhary, Sous Chef

What you need

- 250 gm of egg-free premix
- 180 gm of water • 90 ml of oil
- 300 ml of full-fat milk
- 300 ml of fresh cream (100 ml for soak and 200 ml for topping)
- 120 gm of condensed milk
- Two tablespoons of rose concentrate
- 100 gm of mascarpone cheese
- A few strands of saffron
- Quarter teaspoon of cardamom powder

PIC COURTESY: DAYSIE RR NAGAR

Preparation

Sponge cake: Preheat oven to 170-degree C. In a mixing bowl, combine egg-free premix, water and oil. Whisk for 4-5 minutes until smooth and fluffy. Pour into a greased tray or cake mould. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean. Cool completely and set aside.

Rose milk soak: In a bowl, mix milk, fresh cream, condensed milk and rose concentrate. Whisk until fully combined and smooth. Chill the mixture before soaking the cake.

Saffron cream: Whip fresh cream to soft peaks. Add mascarpone cheese and fold gently. Mix in saffron strands (soaked) and cardamom powder. Whip lightly until smooth and stable. Keep chilled until use.

Assembly: Place cooled sponge in a deep tray. Poke holes all over the cake using a fork. Pour chilled rose milk mixture evenly until fully soaked. Refrigerate for 1-2 hours.
Spread saffron cream evenly on top. Garnish with saffron strands, rose petals and pistachios. Chill again before serving.

Miso Caramel Flan

By Rahul Mark Barua, Culinary Director

What you need

For flan base:

- 400 gm each of milkmaid and carnation milk
- 340 gm of full-fat milk
- 15 gm of vanilla essence
- Six eggs
- 40 gm of white miso paste

For miso caramel sauce:

- 250 gm of sugar
- 225 gm of butter
- 150 gm of fresh cream
- 30 gm of liquid glucose
- 40 gm of white miso paste

PIC COURTESY: 2 PINTS

Preparation

Flan mix: In a mixing bowl, combine the Milkmaid, carnation milk and full-fat milk. Mix until smooth. Add the white miso paste and vanilla essence, blending well until the miso dissolves completely. Crack the eggs separately and add them slowly to the mixture while whisking gently.

Fill the moulds: Grease ramekins lightly if required. Pour approximately 150 gm of the mixture into each mould. Tap gently to remove air bubbles and cover with foil.

Bake: Place the ramekins in a water bath (bain marie), ensuring the hot water reaches halfway up the moulds. Bake at 150-degree C for 50-55 minutes. The center should retain a slight wobble for the perfect silky texture.

Cool and chill: Remove from the oven and cool at room temperature for 20 minutes. Refrigerate for at least four hours, preferably overnight.

For miso caramel sauce: Add sugar to a heavy-bottomed pan and cook over medium heat until it forms an amber caramel. Avoid stirring aggressively. Slowly add butter while whisking continuously. Warm the cream slightly and pour it in gradually, whisking until smooth. Add liquid glucose and white miso paste, blending until glossy and silky. Strain if needed and chill before serving.

Pro tip

Drizzle the chilled miso caramel sauce generously over the flan before serving. Pair it with a stout or dark ale for a beautifully-balanced finish.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

SO, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?
NOTHING
C'MON, BEETLE, YOU COULD AT LEAST HUMOR ME BY FIBBING A LITTLE
OKAY, YOU HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
THAT'S A LOT!
GREG + MORT WALKER
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

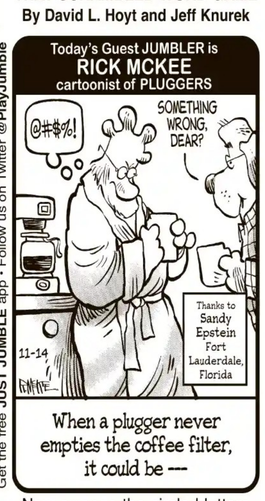
MHDIU

WYNOS

RVELEC

GANDRO

Today's Guest JUMBLER is RICK MCKEE cartoonist of PLUGGERS



When a plugger never empties the coffee filter, it could be ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

_____ FOR _____

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Answers: HUMID SNOWY CLEVER DRAGON
When a plugger never empties the coffee filter, it could be — GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

HITORI-148

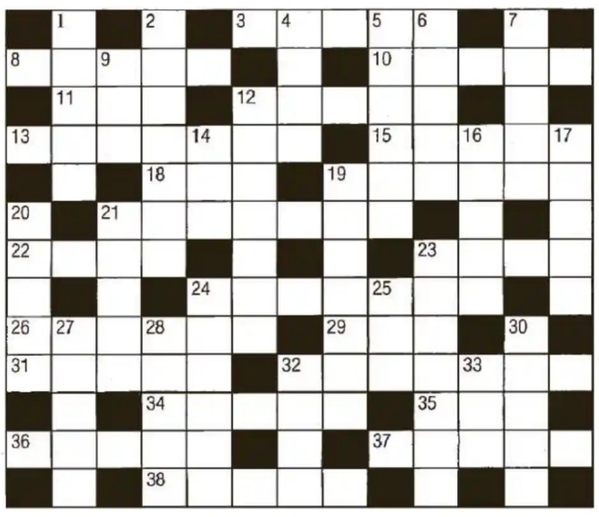
8	1	3	1	6	2	8	1
5	2	1	7	3	8	3	4
4	3	5	6	1	1	2	1
3	1	2	6	7	6	1	5
1	8	1	2	5	3	7	1
2	6	6	5	1	7	4	3
8	7	1	3	2	5	8	1
4	4	8	4	3	8	5	2

SOLUTION for HITORI-148

2	5	■	3	■	8	4	■
1	■	5	2	3	■	7	8
4	3	7	4	■	5	6	2
■	7	3	5	2	■	8	1
5	1	7	6	1	5	■	3
■	2	■	1	6	5	3	4
3	4	8	■	7	1	2	5
■	8	2	6	■	3	1	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 149



EASY

ACROSS
3 Jeans fabric (5)
8 Nobleman (5)
10 Brazilian dance (5)
11 Mountain pass (3)
12 Fruit (5)
13 Gaseous element (7)
15 A premium (5)
18 Spicy (3)
19 Martial art (6)
21 Alike (7)
22 Unlock (4)
23 Heinous (4)
24 Reuse (7)
26 Jigs (6)
29 Father (3)
31 Escargot (5)
32 Sour liquid (7)
34 Challenged (5)
35 Rodent (3)
36 Brimless hat (5)
37 Greek letter (5)
38 Kingdom (5)

DOWN
1 Mother-of-pearl (5)
2 Marine mammal (7)
4 Level (4)
5 Line on a weather map (6)
6 Estate (5)
7 Concerning (5)
9 Man's name (3)
12 Reasons (7)
14 Male cat (3)
16 Simplistic (5)
17 Vends (5)
19 Grasshopper (7)
20 Noblemen (5)
21 Tropical plant (5)
23 Aged (7)
24 Tell (6)
25 Container (3)
27 Rage (5)
28 Alcoholic drink (5)
30 Wash (5)
32 Calf meat (4)
33 Hiatus (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Remove a garment (5)
8 For British Rail to accept one would be a blunder (5)
10 Chopped plums? (5)
11 Tiny character, only three-tenths of a centimetre (3)
12 When a reprobate can get ahead? (5)
13 If you want medicine, ring me and call round (7)
15 Points out I have what it takes to be a bigamist (5)
18 Like the mythical orc, maybe, it never really existed (3)
19 Remember misdirecting a caller (6)
21 Had hopes of getting wildly praised (7)
22 King of cabbages? (4)
23 Study once again the publicity (4)
24 He's entitled, as his dad was (7)
26 Go, devious varlet! (6)
29 Swear the civic centre's at the town centre! (3)
31 Radio melody maker! (5)
32 Meet, please (7)
34 Shiftless all the same? (5)
35 Traitor in the pirates' midst (3)
36 A woman's loyalty (5)
37 It can measure me a half of bitter (5)
38 Like Jack's wit? (5)

DOWN
1 Germanic deity who transformed a town (5)
2 Sorrow about all those dots and dashes (7)
4 It comes down hard! (4)
5 Moved when a girl got married (6)
6 Garment varying in cut (5)
7 Talk with a cigarette end between cracked lips (5)
9 In returning love, initially, one gets love (3)
12 Performance composed of seven out of eight clarinet pieces (7)
14 To clean up means work for many (3)
16 He serves, with heavier heart, to give a tangled tale (5)
17 A slip made by the novice in the team (5)
19 Change of address for a lover shifting out of Maidenhead (7)
20 He provided Ivan with an agricultural implement (5)
21 Albanian saint? (5)
23 Provided with new conductors (7)
24 Agitated bather, out of breath? (6)
25 Negative effect of returning to the North (3)
27 Out in the country, right over the river (5)
28 During the harvest, summertime, they can get a bit sweaty (5)
30 Following a twist of fate, remorse begins (5)
32 Still endlessly upset when cut (4)
33 Rested for a day (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 149

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Shift 8, B-one-R 10, Lumps 11, Tim 12, Rip-on 13, Cal-o-me-l 15, W-I've-S 18, Roc 19, Recall 21, Aspired 22, Cole 23, Re-ad. 24, Baronet 26, Travel 29, V-ow 31, Tuner 32, Satisfy 34, Still 35, Rat 36, Faith 37, Me-ter 38, Salty.
DOWN: 1, Wotan 2, Re-Morse 4, Hail 5, Flo-wed 6, Tunic 7, Spie-l 9, Ni-l 12, Recital 14, M-Op. 16, V-alet 17, S-L-ide 19, Re-M oval 20, Scott (Ivan-hoe) 21, Alban 23, Rewired 24, Bertha 25, N-ot (rev) 27, R-Ural 28, Vests 30, Afte-r 32, Slit 33, Sat. 28, Cider 30, Bathe 32, Veal 33, Gap.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Denim 8, Baron: 10, Samba 11, Col 12, Melon 13, Krypton 15, Bonus 18, Hot 19, Karate 21, Similar 22, Open 23, Evil 24, Recycle 26, Dances 29, Dad 31, Snail 32, Vinegar 34, Bared 35, Rat 36, Beret 37, Alpha; 38, Realm.
DOWN: 1, Nacre 2, Dolphin 4, Even 5, Isobar 6, Manor 7, About 9, Roy 12, Motives 14, Tom 16, Naive 17, Sells 19, Katydid 20, Lords 21, Senna 23, Elderly 24, Relate 25, Can 27, Anger 28, Cider 30, Bathe 32, Veal 33, Gap.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd.
FASHION

Hydration and sunscreen are needed even if the days turn cloudy and cooler

PRO TIP

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

EAT RIGHT

It is advisable to stick to fresh-cooked food on rainy days. Avoid reheated street food as humidity in the wet weather is conducive to bacterial and fungal growth. Hot and freshly-prepared meals cut the risk of food poisoning and stomach infections that tend to occur in wet weather.

BOOST IMMUNITY

Consume more of vegetables and fruits that are rich in Vitamin C, zinc and antioxidants. Citrus fruits, ginger, turmeric, garlic and nutrient-rich herbs should be a part of your daily diet. Hot soups and a daily dose of nuts boost immunity too and help you keep infections away.

Make-up today is about helping you look like the finest version of yourself - confident, rested, radiant and contemporary, writes **Prasad Bidapa**

New face of beauty

Beauty in 2026 is no longer about layers of make-up hiding imperfections. The new generation of beauty products is intelligent, adaptive, skin-sensitive and climate-aware - designed not merely to beautify, but to work with the skin. For those living in tropical climates, this evolution could not have arrived at a better time.

India presents some of the toughest conditions in the world. Humidity, pollution, harsh sunlight and long working hours demand make-up that performs beyond the studio or runway. Today's advanced formulations use skincare technology, breathable pigments and climate-resistant textures to create make-up that survives the Indian day while still looking effortless.

International make-up artist Daniel Bauer, who has worked extensively with Indian skin tones and fashion editorials, has often championed the idea that modern make-up should enhance individuality rather than mask it. The heavy contouring era is fading. In its place comes luminous skin, intelligent highlighting, sheer textures and healthy radiance. Skin is expected to look like skin again.

Equally influential is Namrata Soni, whose sophisticated bridal and celebrity looks have helped redefine aspirational Indian beauty. Her work consistently proves that glamour does not require excess. Precision skin preparation, nuanced tones and strategic illumination often create more impact than dense make-up layers.

One of the most important shifts in beauty today is the growing understanding of darker Indian skin tones. For decades, Indian beauty counters pushed lighter foundations and ash-toned products not suited to melanin-rich complexions. Thankfully, newer luxury and professional brands are finally formulating richer undertones, deeper pigments and warmer palettes that celebrate Indian skin rather than attempting to neutralise it.

For deeper complexions, the modern focus is on hydration and golden luminosity instead of over-powdering. Peach, terracotta, bronze and berry tones work beautifully across Indian skin shades, while reflective skincare-infused bases now offer glow without greasiness - crucial in Indian weather.

Tropical climates also require smarter product choices. Lightweight serum foundations, waterproof cream pigments, transfer-resistant lip colours and humidity-proof eye products are replacing older heavy formulations. Longwear no longer has to mean cakey.

Most importantly, modern beauty is becoming deeply personal. The best make-up today is not about transforming a woman into someone else. It is about helping her look like the finest version of herself - confident, rested, radiant and contemporary.

Perhaps that is the real revolution in beauty. Technology may power the products, but authenticity defines the look.

PICS COURTESY: PRASAD BIDAPA ASSOCIATES

Ears with a theme

Stacked earrings reflect your style and aesthetics, writes **Swatee Jog**

Jewellery trends are fleeting, but some styles redefine how one thinks about personal statements. One of the most exciting and enduring trends in recent years is the rise of multiple ear piercings and the beautifully-coordinated stacked earrings look.

Gone are the days when just a single earring would mean a style statement when done properly. Now, instead of wearing a single pair of earrings, women, not just in India but the world-over, are transforming the ear into a personalised canvas. It reflects their personality and moods. Combining tiny studs, shapes of birds, flowers, animals, unicorns, daily objects, hoops, cuffs and gemstones they create a look that is uniquely their own. When stacked with a theme, the ear becomes a book of her personal story.

Set for the stack

Multiple ear piercings involve having two or more piercings on one or both ears in the shape of a crescent across the ear lobe. Together, these placements create endless opportunities to mix and match jewellery.

Stacked earrings trend

The stacked earrings trend is not a recent one. Many women often wore more than one earring. Called a 'curated ear', it is the art of combining several earrings in complementary sizes and shapes, not necessarily in the same style. The result is a layered look that feels intentional and highly personalised.

A typical ear stack may include:

- A classic gemstone stud in the first piercing
- A small hoop in the second piercing
- A delicate diamond, flower or star stud in the third
- A slim hoop or cuff on the helix
- The beauty of the trend lies in balancing proportion, texture and sparkle with materials such as metal, gemstones, as also colours and shapes.

Reflection of aesthetics

Stacked earrings through multiple piercings offer a personalised expression. Every ear stack tells a story. Imagine a combo of a bird followed by a flying bird, flower an animal and moon. It speaks volumes about the wearer's personality. Whether you prefer understated gold pieces or vibrant gemstones, the arrangement reflects your individual aesthetic.

Easy to update

You can change one piece and instantly create a fresh look without buying an entirely new jewellery set. Moreover, you can get a large variety of designs, not just in precious metals and stones but also in brass, steel and semi-precious and synthetic gems, making them affordable and stylish.

Suitable for all occasions

Minimalist stacks are elegant enough for work, think only studs or small hoops, while more dramatic combinations are perfect for celebrations and evening events.

In many cultures, ear piercing has long-standing significance. The stacked earrings trend modernises this tradition in a contemporary and artistic way.

Some popular earring stacks

Minimalist stack:
- Solitaire studs
- Tiny gold hoops
- Micro diamond studs

Boho stack:
- Mixed metal hoops
- Moon and star charms
- Textured cuffs

Bridal stack:
- Diamond studs
- Pearl accentms
- Delicate huggies

Bold statement stack:
- Multiple hoops
- Gemstone clusters
- Ear cuffs

Abharan Jewellers announces 'Old Gold for New' offer

The original Abharan Jewellers launched its sought-after 'Old Gold for New' offer. This edition is a 'nation first' old gold exchange scheme. You can now avail Rs 250 extra per gm on old gold exchanged. You also get up to Rs 1,250 off per gm on gold jewellery making charges (including Rs 250 off per gm on old gold exchanged). Also, you can avail up to Rs 15,000 off per Carat on diamonds and a flat Rs 7,000 off per gm on silver articles. These offers are valid up to June 7, 2026.

This is a good opportunity to cash in on your old gold. Abharan Jewellers has a wide range of the latest beautifully-crafted ornaments. The brand upgrades its jewellery collection for this season.

The Udupi-based Abharan Jewellers is one of the most reputed jewellery brands in Karnataka and Goa with a strong retail presence. The brand has 20 showrooms across 17 locations in Bengaluru, Udupi, Mangaluru, Uttara Kannada, Shivamogga, Chikmagalur, and Panaji and Margao in Goa.

Abharan Jewellers has a rich 90-year heritage of trust that's built on four pillars – promise of true price, ethical practices, great craftsmanship and quality assurance.

Always high on style

The crop top is one of the most versatile fashion staples, says **Jayanthi Madhukar**

Crop tops have become increasingly popular as a fashion choice, especially in the summer season. Once confined to teenage wardrobes, it is becoming increasingly mainstream. Styling crop tops is a subtle art because the idea is not so much to bare the midriff but more about proportion and silhouette. It can look athletic, minimalist or elegant.

Here are three ways to wear it:

Skirting the top

Cotton and linen versions can be worn with loose skirts. This combination is styled with an emphasis on silhouette and balance. A boxy crop top can be worn over a high-waisted midi or ankle-length skirt. The look is structured and can be worn for an evening out. A structured crop top can be paired with a flowy skirt to create a good balance. Usually, co-ordinated sets in muted tones are classic minimalist looks.

The texture of the crop top is to be taken into consideration. A cotton crop top looks good when boxy or when fitted with drawstrings. Paired with a cotton skirt, the outfit is a perfect summertime dress. A satin or pleated crop top looks good with a delicate skirt in similar material.

Casual with jeans

Few combinations have proved as enduring or adaptable as the crop top with jeans. The appeal lies largely in contrast - the short silhouette of the crop top offsets the sturdiness of denim, creating a trendy and casual look.

High-waisted wide-legged jeans that are trendy now are perfect for the crop top, offering structure and balance while allowing the cropped length to feel subtle rather than overtly revealing. A fitted crop top paired with straight-leg denim is minimalist while over-sized jeans with a crisp cropped shirt is a smart style version. Stylists often rely on layering to elevate the pairing. For instance, an open linen shirt, a tailored blazer or chunky jewellery can shift the outfit from casual wear to something more intentional. This combination endures because it is practical, relaxed and confident.

Ethnic sensibility

A crop top paired with harem pants brings together two contrasting silhouettes - structured and loose, fluid looks. A fitted crop top helps balance the volume of harem pants. The result is an outfit that feels relaxed, yet intentionally styled, suited for the hot weather and even special occasions. Softer fabrics like cotton, rayon or linen keep the ensemble from appearing overly heavy, while monochrome palettes and earthy tones tend to lend sophistication. Prints and embroidery give out a bohemian aesthetic. Accessories are usually kept minimal with flat sandals, layered bracelets or understated hoops to complete the outfit. What makes the pairing endure is its comfortable aesthetics and yet expressive enough to stand apart from more predictable combinations.

Variety in style

The simple crop top has a diverse range of styles. The fitted crop top is the most versatile and can be paired with denims and loose pants. Off-shoulder and sweetheart-neck styles are fashion-forward choices. Boxy crop tops are more forgiving than the rest, especially the corset-style tops which have to be worn with careful consideration. Ribbed knit versions are the most casual.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. WELLNESS

Toasting a bread roll rather than frying it gives it a crisp shell and less heaviness

PRO TIP

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

SERVE RIGHT

Serve mint chutney chilled with the snacks in the monsoon season if the weather is humid. The cold chutney goes better with the rich deep-fried snacks. You can relish more of bite-sized snacks like samosas when balanced with the chilled chutney.

GINGER CHAI

An ideal drink with finger food on a rainy evening is ginger tea. Ginger and cardamom tea enhances the experience of savory finger food. The taste of the spicy snacks and flavour of ginger and cardamom tea balance well and linger on.

Haven at home

Jayanthi Madhukar explains how you can create a calm, reflective space for your meditation

Right now, the world, especially the virtual world, is filled with stress. Doctors recommend meditation and it's preferable to have a quiet space that's conducive for it. Most agree that while it is not necessary to have something elaborate, the space needs to be clear of distractions.

Here's what you could do to have your quiet, reflective, meditative – call it what you want – space.

Find the right niche

The good news is that any room in your house could serve as a place to meditate, barring of course the kitchen. It could be an alcove in the bedroom, a tiny corner in the dining or living room or else the study, if you have one for yourself. Just check for distractions in the space. Too close to the main door, the kitchen or any space that is usually used by others in the family – these are to be avoided.

Get the space ready

Before you even start decorating the space, you need to make it conducive for quiet reflection. This could mean removing all the distractions that make your mind shift from a state of equilibrium. Be it books, wires, clothes, television or any dynamics that will make you want to get up and engage with it. Sometimes, even staring at a chest of drawers can make you want to look into them and check the contents.

The idea is to declutter and feel peaceful in it.

Decor and accessories

Do you want to make it a space where you can be creative – as in fine arts, writing or yoga practice apart from a meditation room? Once you have allocated some functions to the room, you can begin decorating it accordingly. List the features that make you feel tranquil, which could be soothing auditory notes, calming visuals, refreshing fragrance or all of it.

Start with adorning the space with meditative paraphernalia which could be floor cushions, a soft rug and a table that can hold accessories like candles and crystals. If there are some pictures that help in focusing, put those up on the wall. Usually, a mandala painting has the desired effect.

Some people like to focus on a particular object that has special significance for them. It could be an idol or figurine. Some like to keep a large crystal or rock in the room to create a conducive ambiance. Some paint the walls in a cool colour and place a few potted plants in it to give it a soothing vibe.

A meditation room can have music that is calming. Else, a soothing wind-chime can create the right backdrop for meditation.

Beat stress with meditation

A daily dose of meditation calms your mind, sharpens your focus and pushes your productivity at work, says yoga therapist **Krupa Patel**

Life is all about multi-tasking and constant digital noise today. This leaves your attention and emotions pulled in different directions at the same time. Much of the stress and related health issues stem from this. Beating stress therefore can solve many health problems so common these days. One sure way to beat stress is through meditation.

Meditation simply means staying in the present - your mind, body and emotion are integrated and working in resonance with each other in this moment. Anybody can practice meditation, while it is especially needed for those battling high stress levels. Professionals who go through stressful work conditions, people with job-related pressures and those suffering from anxiety or depression will also find meditation a soothing balm.

Anxiety increases chronic pains and conditions. For those with chronic aches, meditation is a natural painkiller as it reduces the anxiety that's fuelling the pain. Senior citizens can benefit from daily meditation as it is known to stem age-related cell deterioration.

Training the mind

The ultimate goal of meditation is to train your mind to be in the present moment completely and effortlessly. It confers an inner stillness and prevents stressful conditions from affecting you. Meditation helps release 'happy hormones' such as dopamine, serotonin and oxytocin.

Reducing stress and boosting your mood, meditation helps you focus better and thus increases your productivity and creativity. It rewires your mind to react more calmly to external triggers.

Mornings are ideal

As meditation helps you focus and calms your mind, it's best to practice it in the mornings before you start the day. You are then ready to face your daily challenges with a much calmer mind. If your morning schedule is too hectic and you cannot find the time to meditate, you can meditate in the night before going to bed too.

Get going

Sit in a comfortable position on the floor or on a chair. Play any soothing music of your choice, preferably slow tunes. Close your eyes, focussing either on the music or on your breath. Let thoughts come and go. Observe them without analysing or judging them. Let them pass, and in a few minutes, you will find them reducing. You become still and calm from within.

Beginner should practice meditation for at least 10 minutes every day.

Impact of meditation

Over time, as you mute the constant chatter in your mind and go deeper, meditation helps release your sub-conscious patterns such as strong likes and dislikes, insecurities, fears and rigidity of the mind.

Sit cross-legged on the floor with your spine erect for a longer time without moving. Staying still even when you have the urge to move deepens your will power. As you go deeper into meditation, it will also help you detach from ego-driven desires.

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Don't let gymtimidation stop you

If stepping into the gym has you sweating, the way to get over it is in addressing the triggers, writes **Jayanthi Madhukar**

Working Out

If you are someone who hesitates to step into a gym, it may help to examine what is holding you back. For many, it is the fear of doing something 'wrong' in front of strangers or being judged for not knowing how to use the 'intimidating array of machines'. This sense of 'gymtimidation' often stems from overwhelming anxiety about exercising in the presence of others. Many assume that everyone else in the gym belongs there and knows exactly what they are doing, making even a minor misstep feel glaringly obvious.

Yet, avoiding gyms altogether and relying only on outdoor exercise, which is not always practical, or home workouts, which may lack proper equipment, is not necessarily the answer. Instead, it may be more useful to understand the triggers behind gym-related anxiety and nervousness. "Identifying the triggers will likely help in dealing with your gym anxiety," says fitness instructor Rajesh P, who trains clients at a gym.

According to him, one of the biggest barriers is a lack of familiarity with the machines. "You are not alone in this," he says. The simplest solution, he adds, is to gather the courage to ask a trainer for help. "We appreciate people who ask for guidance instead of trying to figure things out themselves because it allows us to ensure the machines are being used correctly." Another option is to read up on the equipment beforehand. "Start with simpler machines such as the treadmill, exercise bike or elliptical trainer and become comfortable with them before moving on to more advanced equipment."

Social anxiety can also discourage people from exercising in public. Meera Prakash, a software engineer in the city, says she stopped going to the gym after the Covid-19 pandemic. "I developed a general anxiety about being around people, and the idea of exercising with others around me felt terrifying," she says. Outdoor exercise proved inconsistent because it depended heavily on the weather. "I ended up barely working-out, so eventually I signed up at a nearby gym," she notes. "My therapist counselled me into actually walking into the gym."

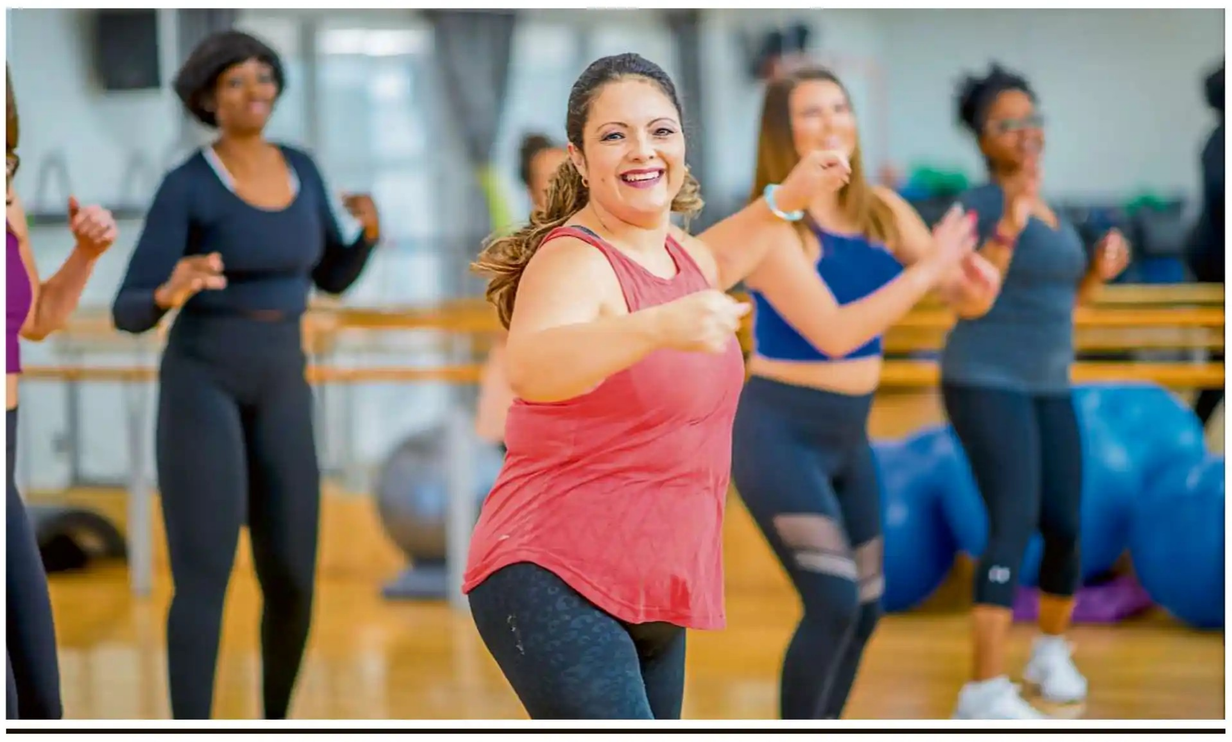
For others, the issue is simply self-consciousness. Beginners often feel as though everyone is watching them. "Many people experience anxiety because they are worried about what others might think of their appearance," Rajesh says. Concerns about body image can become a significant obstacle to entering a gym. "Gym clothing can make people hyper-aware of their body proportions, visible fat or muscle tone. Understanding these feelings and where they come from can help ease gym anxiety", he adds.

Beat gym anxiety

When something feels overwhelming, understanding it is often the first step towards managing it. The same applies to gym-related anxiety. Start by identifying what exactly makes you uncomfortable. Visit a gym and ask for a tour before signing up. Familiarising yourself with the space can make the first work-out feel less intimidating. Ask the staff to explain how the equipment works or do some research beforehand.

If group classes interest you, consider enrolling in one. Doing something familiar in an unfamiliar environment can help calm the nerves. Hiring a personal trainer for the first few sessions may also make the experience less daunting, while ensuring that you learn how to use the equipment correctly.

Most importantly, work on addressing negative body image and social anxiety with patience and self-awareness rather than self-criticism.



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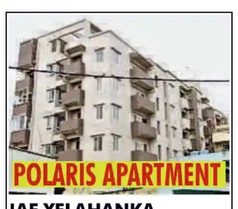

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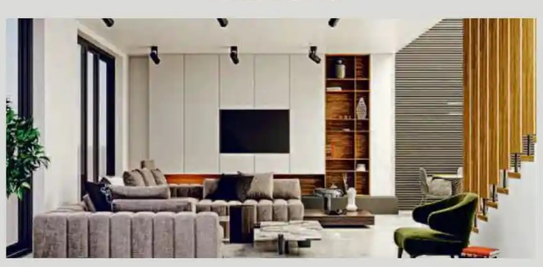

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